

FLN urges Islamic moderation

ALGERIA (R) — Algeria's former ruling party, apparently accepting a likely election victory by its Islamic opponents, on Tuesday urged them to moderate their policies after a second round ballot. "We still hope that the exercise of responsibility will permit understanding of the country's real problems and lead to a change in the political statements" of fundamentalist leaders, National Liberation Front (FLN) Secretary-General Abdul Hamid Mechi said. The FLN and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which wants an Islamic state, dominated a Jan. 16 runoff for 198 undecided seats (see page 2). The FIS took 188 of the 232 won outright in the first round last month. Against 16 for the FLN which ruled the former one-party state for nearly 30 years. Another 35 went to the Socialist Forces Front (SFF) and three to independent candidates. Mr. Mechi told a news conference in Algiers: "We believe that a balanced representation in the new parliament is the essential aim of the second round. We are working towards achieving that balance so as to preserve the democratic process." He put aside the possibility of a general agreement with other political parties for the second round. A total of 46 parties failed to get any seats in that ballot.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة.

Iraq: 86,000 died as result of blockade

NICOSIA (AP) — Almost 86,000 Iraqis died in 1991 as a result of the U.N. economic sanctions imposed following the invasion of Kuwait, the country's health minister said Tuesday. Health Minister Omid Medhat Mubarak said 27,473 of the 85,942 who died were children under five who suffered from respiratory infections, diarrhoea and other illnesses because there were no medicines to treat them. Mr. Mubarak warned the death rate would rise in 1992 if the trade embargo continued, the Iraqi News agency said. Imports of food and medicine are allowed under emergency measures adopted by the Security Council after the Gulf war, but Iraq is short of hard currency to pay for them. Shortages are still widespread. International health experts had warned that tens of thousands Iraqis would die as a result of such shortages, particularly children whose immune systems were lowered through improper nutrition. "Mubarak urged health and humanitarian organisations to work to lift the unfair economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, particularly since this blockade runs counter to all international resolutions, contravenes the U.N. Charter and violates human rights," the news agency reported.

Volume 17 Number 4900

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1992, RAGAB 3, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Cabinet holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and approved recommendations by the Financial and Economic Committee on reducing customs duty on textiles used in factories. It also approved a unified allowances system for municipality workers. The system provides for granting municipal personnel a JD 10 raise as other government employees.

Husseini leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Faisal Husseini, chairman of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel and Ahmad Yagzi, member of the advisory group, left Amman Tuesday on a European tour, which will take them to Sweden, Japan and a number of European countries, where they will explain the Palestinian view towards the peace process. In a departure statement, Mr. Husseini lauded the United Nations Security Council resolution which condemned the Israeli decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories. Mr. Husseini said the decision gives "us a chance to discuss our participation in the peace talks in a more positive atmosphere." He voiced hope that the resolution will be mandatory.

EC helicopter downed in Croatia; 5 observers killed

ZAGREB (AP) — A helicopter carrying five European Community (EC) observers was shot down Tuesday, killing the four Italians and the Frenchman aboard, officials said. Croatian officials said a federal air force jet shot down the chopper. A Croatian interior ministry statement, read over the telephone to the Associated Press, said the EC helicopter blew up in the air after it was hit by an air-to-air missile in the vicinity of Novi Marof, about 50 kilometres northeast of Zagreb. The attack came during the fifth day of a U.N.-mediated ceasefire in the war between Croatia and Serbs opposed to the republic's independence declaration.

Van den Broek due here next week

THE HAGUE (AP) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who represented the European Community (EC) at the Mideast peace conference, will visit Israel, Syria and Jordan next week, the government announced Tuesday. Mr. Van den Broek is expected to leave Monday or Tuesday for Syria and conclude his trip Friday in Israel, according to a foreign ministry spokeswoman. While the contents of the talks with the countries' leaders had been finalised, the spokeswoman said Mr. Van den Broek would engage in mediation aimed at furthering the peace process.

Picco in Bonn

BONN (R) — U.N. hostage negotiator Giandomenico Picco met German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher on Tuesday to pursue the release of the German hostages in Lebanon. Mr. Genscher told journalists before his meeting with Picco that the new U.N. secretary-general, Boutros Ghali, was as committed to the release of all hostages as his predecessor, Javier Perez de Cuellar. The kidnappers of the two Germans have demanded that Bonn free Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi, two Lebanese imprisoned in Germany for murder, air piracy and kidnapping. Bonn has refused to exchange them for the hostages.

Brandt trying to arrange Afghan talks

BONN (R) — Afghan rebels and their government foes may gather near Bonn this month to discuss ways of ending their country's 13-year civil war, organisers of the meeting said on Tuesday. The unofficial talks, arranged by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt and a think-tank linked to his Social Democracy Party (SPD), would be the first to start bridging the deep gulf between the rival groups.

Security Council clears impasse in peace process

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— The U.N. Security Council has delivered its harshest condemnation ever at Israel over the planned expulsion of 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories. The United States joined the 14 other members of the council in unanimously condemning the expulsion orders, calling them a violation of international law and asking Israel to halt all expulsions and allow those already expelled to return. By using the words "strongly condemns," the resolution was the strongest ever directed at the Jewish state over expulsions, according to U.S. Palestinian and Israeli diplomats. This is the largest group of Palestinians ever to be ordered expelled. Arab and Western diplomats had said the orders were undermining the peace process and tainting the atmosphere of peace talks, which were scheduled to resume Tuesday in Washington. Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators had informally agreed to resume Tuesday. "The council will pass a resolution strongly condemning the expulsion of Palestinians and we hope it will bring Palestinians back to the negotiating table and have a positive effect on the peace process," said French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, speaking to reporters before the session. Nasser Al Kidwa, Palestine's U.N. observer, told the council that Israel was trying to derail the peace process by expelling Palestinians. But he indicated that decisive criticism by the council could encourage the Palestinian delegation to attend the talks in Washington this week. The Palestinian delegation to the talks had delayed its departure to protest the departure orders and was awaiting council action. "There has been no decision for the Palestinians to come to Washington, but I believe this action by the council today will have its positive effect on the decision-making process" on whether to attend," Mr. Kidwa said Monday.

Israel has rejected all similar council criticism and on Monday Israeli Ambassador Yoram Aridor declared Israel would continue to use expulsions as necessary to "defend" itself against "terrorist" attacks. Israel said last Thursday it would expel the 12 Palestinians, who are accused of inciting violence on the West Bank and Gaza. "Israel has a legal obligation to defend its residents, Jews and Arabs alike, and will continue to do so," he told the council. "Israel will also continue to seek peace through the peace process." He contended that the resolution, which does not condemn violence against Israelis, would undermine the peace process and encourage violence. The resolution adopted by the council was drafted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), council sources said. The original version said the council "strongly deplores" Israel's decision to resume expulsions.

But one source said the PLO toughened the wording to "strongly condemns" after the State Department spokesman himself used that phrase last Friday to criticise the Israeli action. The resolution requests Israel, as the occupying power, to ensure the safe and immediate return of deportees. It also reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians to the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war. The council also decided to keep the matter under review, leaving the door open for further action once the expulsions had actually occurred. Alluding to the peace talks, Mr. Kidwa said: "Undoubtedly the council's taking of an appropriate action today will positively reflect on the course of events." He said the resolution presupposed that Israel would rescind its decision and allow those expelled to return. Referring to Israeli settlement activities and other measures

against Palestinians, Mr. Kidwa said: "The only logical conclusion to be arrived at is that Israel, having been compelled to participate in the peace process, is acting systematically to derail that process." Ambassador Thomas Pickering of the United States said the expulsion of individuals from the occupied territories was a violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The United States had repeatedly urged Israel to immediately and permanently cease expulsions, he added. Mr. Pickering said the United States also viewed with concern the "rise of violence in the occupied territories." "We condemn, and we believe all countries should condemn, the increasing attacks on and deaths of Israelis, just as we condemn attacks on and deaths of Palestinians," he added. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in one of his first published statements since taking

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Talks likely to be delayed until next week — diplomats

WASHINGTON (R) — A United Nations condemnation of Israel has cleared the way for a resumption of Middle East peace negotiations but the talks are unlikely to convene before Sunday at the earliest, diplomats said on Tuesday. One Arab diplomatic source said the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would not be able to arrive in Washington until late on Thursday or early on Friday. "We are satisfied with the U.N. vote. Right now, the delegations are looking for the best way of reaching Washington," the source said. Since Friday is the Muslim holiday and Saturday the Jewish day of rest, the earliest the parties could get back together would be on Sunday. The Israeli negotiators arrived in Washington Monday. The talks were supposed to have resumed on Tuesday but Arab delegates delayed their travel to Washington to protest against Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories. But the United States engineered a unanimous vote in the U.N. Security Council on Monday "strongly condemning" the expulsions, which seems to have persuaded the Arabs to attend the talks. The talks were inaugurated in Madrid last November immediately after the Middle East peace conference. Six sessions were held in Washington last month but achieved little. The heads of the Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian delegations spent the time in a corridor of the State Department haggling over the relationship between the Palestinians and the joint delegation they form with Jordan. The diplomatic sources said that problem had still not been resolved but that the delegation heads probably would resume their discussions in a room rather than in the corridor. He said solving the dispute was the main aim of the next round of talks and that future negotiations would probably shift to somewhere in Europe.

Security Council 'strongly condemns' Israeli expulsions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — International condemnation of Israel has cleared the way for the next round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks in Washington expected to begin later this week or early next week. Jordan, the Palestinians and

Lebanon Tuesday announced their decision to travel to Washington for the talks, which were scheduled to begin Tuesday but were delayed after the Arab delegations, including Syria, announced that they were postponing their departure for the talks in protest against an Israeli decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories.

FOLLOWING is the text of a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's expulsion of Palestinian civilians. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous 15-0 vote on Monday.

- The Security Council, Recalling the obligations of member states under the United Nations Charter; Recalling its Resolutions 607 (1988), 608 (1988), 636 (1989), 641 (1989), and 694 (1991); Having been apprised of the decision of Israel, the occupying power, to deport 12 Palestinian civilians from the occupied Palestinian territories;
1. Strongly condemns the decision of Israel, the occupying power, to resume deportations of Palestinian civilians;
 2. Reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;
 3. Requests Israel, the occupying power, to refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories;
 4. Also requests Israel, the occupying power, to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported;
 5. Decides to keep the matter under review.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is physically excluded from the peace talks but is guiding the Palestinian negotiators, had called on the Security Council to act to counter the Israeli move. The council, meeting late Monday, adopted a resolution strongly condemning the Israeli step and called on the Jewish state to allow the return of Palestinians who have been expelled from the occupied territories (see story below). Both Jordan and the PLO expressed satisfaction with the resolution after talks Tuesday between high-level Jordanian and Palestinian delegations headed by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (see story below). Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber announced Tuesday evening that the Jordanian delegation will leave for Washington "in the next two days." The chief Jordanian negotiator, Abdul Salam Majali, said that Jordan had decided to participate in the talks. "We will be participating in the Washington peace talks," Dr.

Arafat leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Jordan Tuesday after several rounds of talks with Jordanian leaders in Amman and Syrian leaders in Damascus on the Middle East peace process and reaching agreement on going ahead with the next round of peace talks with Israel in Washington. Mr. Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), held a round of talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker before his departure. The meeting, which was held at the Prime Ministry after the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution late Monday strongly condemning Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories, was believed to have focused on Arab coordination and strategy in the Washington talks. All the Arab delegations to the peace talks — Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese —



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat discuss Tuesday coordination in the peace process and the situation in the occupied Arab territories (Petra photo)

postponed their departure for Washington for the talks originally scheduled to have begun Tuesday in protest against the Israeli expulsion decision. Israel, rejecting calls for a reversal of the decision, sent its delegates to Washington as scheduled. The Security Council resolution condemning Israel broke the stalemate and the Arab delegations are expected to leave Wednesday for Washington. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and PLO Executive Com-

Israel spent \$1.5 b on settlements in 1 year

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel has spent about \$1.5 billion building more than 19,000 housing units in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since December 1990, two leftist legislators said Tuesday. This construction amounted to 25 per cent of all public building in Israel during this period, said legislators Dedi Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement and Haim Oron of the Mafum Party. Another 5,000 housing units will be built in the West Bank and Gaza this year, they said, basing the information on figures appearing in the 1992 state budget approved last week. In a statement to reporters, Mr. Zucker and Mr. Oron said they obtained housing ministry documents also showing that in the last 12 months, 23.5 per cent of a budget for encouraging industrial development went to factories in the occupied territories. About 112,000 Israeli live in the settlements Israel has built in the occupied territories.

U.N. seeks funds for Iraqis

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations appealed on Tuesday for \$145 million for humanitarian aid in Iraq and for Gulf war victims on its borders, needed because Baghdad is unable to raise money by selling oil. U.N. agencies would use the funds in the first half of this year, especially to help Kurds in northern Iraq and the Shi'ite Muslims in the south. The cash would also pay for a detachment of 500 U.N. guards in Iraq. Officials said governments might be reluctant to give to the plan because Iraq was able to fund the programmes by exporting oil under strict U.N. supervision — permitted under Security Council resolutions — but continued to refuse to do so under the stringent guidelines set by the world body. "We're aware that funding could be not readily available because of this situation," Michael Stopford, senior adviser at the U.N. office coordinating the aid, told a news conference to launch the programme. "However, long as there is no funding under those resolutions, the humanitarian programme has got to go on," he said.

Iran said engaged in massive arms build-up

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Iran is conducting a multibillion-dollar arms build-up via secret deals with Russia, North Korea and other nations and shortly will become the dominant power in the Gulf, it was reported Tuesday. Iran's purchases include Soviet SU-24 fighter-bombers, MIG-29 fighter planes, tanks, missiles and other sophisticated weapons, as well as "nuclear research," the Los Angeles Times said. The buildup has given Iran parity with Iraq, long the region's leading power, the newspaper quoted intelligence sources as saying. Cash-strapped Russia is selling Iran arms from the Red Army's inventory to obtain foreign exchange, the Times said. "It's a cash-and-carry deal at cut-rate prices, and arms bazaars are sprouting up all over the place," one source said. Iran's purchases also include "nuclear research," a Bush administration official was quoted as saying. The official did not elaborate. "Our concern is not just what they are accumulating, but what they plan to do with it," the official said. The Bush administration has insisted that existing controls over nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union will prevent their unauthorised use or diversion by the former Soviet republics. The aircraft sales apparently are being made at the governmental level, while Red Army tanks, armored vehicles, artillery and other weapons are being sold through international arms dealers, a U.S. official said. Some of the Russian arms purchases were agreed upon before the Soviet Union was dis-

solved and President Mikhail Gorbachev resigned, an American official said. The bulk of Iran's arms purchased came from Russia, but Iran also is acquiring arms from North Korea, Argentina and other countries, sources said. In addition, Tehran has kept 146 aircraft flown by Iraqi pilots to Iran during the Gulf war, the newspaper said. U.S. officials are concerned about the buildup but note that Iran has eased its anti-Western stance, helped free hostages in Lebanon and could help the U.S. campaign to topple Iraq's Saddam Hussein, the newspaper said. Israel views the buildup with "grave concern," an Israeli official was quoted as saying. Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Tuesday called on the country's main fighting force to take an active part in the country's reconstruction efforts, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency said Mr. Rafsanjani's comments came in a meeting with Mohsen Rezaie, head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and other commanders. Mr. Rafsanjani urged the guards to maintain combat readiness. But he said that the guards were "now in a stage to assume an economic role." He called on the guards to "join hands" with the regular armed forces in the "post-war reconstruction effort."

Mr. Rafsanjani has been determined to merge the guard's with its own army and air force, with the regular armed forces. He has been moving slowly, however, due to widespread opposition to his plan within the guards corps.

Parties want to move up polls Israel's two largest political parties, the Likud bloc headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Labour Party, want to move up national elections to the spring or summer of 1992, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Parliament elections are scheduled for Nov. 3 but the date can be changed by a majority vote in the legislature. The Davar daily, owned by the Labour-dominated Histadrut Labor federation, said "preliminary contacts" were underway over setting an early elections date between leaders of the left-leaning Labour Party and right-wing Likud. It said agreement in principle was reached on the issue but that there was disagreement over a date. Likud wants the elections in May and Labour would prefer June or July, the newspaper said. Labour spokesmen could not immediately be reached for comment.

Israel rejects condemnation, presses on with expulsions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel ignored harsh world condemnation on Tuesday, pressing ahead with plans to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories. Israeli officials called Monday's U.N. condemnation one-sided and bitterly criticised the United States, their closest ally and leading sponsor of the Middle East peace talks, for supporting the resolution. The Jewish state announced it was expelling the 12 last week ahead of the second round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks on ending the 43-year-old Middle East conflict. Yossi Ben Aharon, a top aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and a key negotiator in the peace talks, accused the United States of bowing to Arab demands to ensure their presence at the talks. "We can only express our bitterness, our anger and our regret that the United States continues to pay a price to bring the Arabs to the negotiating table at the expense of Israel and of terror victims," he told army radio. The U.N.-Security Council strongly condemned the planned expulsions in a 15-0 vote, and Palestinian leaders said it would pave the way for their negotiators to rejoin the peace talks which had been due to resume in Washington on Tuesday. In the occupied territories, army judges resumed the closed-door expulsion appeal hearings begun on Monday. But only

once, in 1979, has an expulsion order been reversed. About 25 women protesting against the expulsions scuffled with police during a march in Arab East Jerusalem from the Red Cross offices where they staged a sit-down protest. Mr. Shamir's spokesman Ehud Gol said the government stood by its decision to expel the 12 Arabs regarded by Israel as leading activists in the four-year-old uprising. "We are very disappointed by the unjust and one-sided decision of the Security Council. It ignores

completely the acts of murder against Israeli citizens," Mr. Gol said. "Israel will continue to fulfil its duty to safeguard the security of its citizens and will act against all those who encourage and incite terror and violence and will continue to work to move the peace process forward," he said. Mr. Shamir defended the action at a meeting with the visiting Archbishop of Canterbury. But the latest vote did not surprise Israelis, hardened by years of condemnations, despite the U.N. General Assembly's repeal last month of a 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism. "I believe the U.N. is the same hypocritical U.N. we've always known. The U.N. can repeal the Zionism as racism resolution and remain the same United Nations," said Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, a leading hardliner. Israel has expelled 67 Palestinians since the uprising began in the occupied territories. The Security Council condemns the expulsions as a violation of international law. Washington insists suspected wrongdoers should be tried fairly in court and jailed if found guilty. Army chief Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak said Israel might better withstand international criticism by limiting the time expelled Palestinians were forced to remain abroad. Most

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Algerian opposition to Islamic state grows

ALGIERS (R) — Opposition to a fundamentalist Islamic state is growing in Algeria ahead of a second general election ballot which appears destined to sweep partisans of Muslim religious law into parliamentary power.

Following the lead of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), which set up a "Committee to Save Algeria" from the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), a host of similar groups have sprung up.

From Oran in the west of Annaba near the Tunisian border, bankers, traders, managers, sportsmen, artists and scientists are joining forces to call on voters to block the FIS advance.

"The refusal to abdicate, with submission and fatality, to the FIS state is growing hour by hour,"

"Tens of thousands of Algerians are organising themselves to reject the inevitability of a FIS state built on rigged elections," Le Matin newspaper said in an editorial Tuesday.

Calls to "save democracy" have multiplied, with appeals for meetings to counteract the efficient FIS election machine.

Women, seen as the first casualties of a fundamentalist victory, are a particular target of those opposing the FIS.

"Algerian women have been part of all our battles up to today. Saving democratic Algeria means defending our right to work... our right to learning," said the women's faction of the UGTA-inspired committee.

The failure of illiterate voters to understand the voting system is widely blamed for nearly one million votes being declared void.

The Constitutional Council, investigating complaints of irregularities, is particularly looking at

the spoilt ballots which made up nearly 12 per cent of the 7.8 million votes cast.

Charges that the poll was fraudulent, despite government efforts to ensure fairness, are also being widely voiced.

At least 341 complaints were lodged with the Constitutional Council, in charge of the elections, after the Dec. 26 vote gave the FIS 188 of 232 seats won outright. The 198 undecided seats go to a run-off on Jan. 16.

Prime Minister Sidahmad Ghozali, disappointed that 5.4 million of the electorate had failed to vote, said: "There were attempts to influence voters, either by threats or by promises which border on exploitation..."

Al Watan newspaper on Tuesday accused the government and anti-fundamentalist parties of naivety, saying: "Neither... took into account the fact they faced a political formation which would not stand back from any means to achieve its objective..."

Commenting on the spoilt ballots and non-distribution of 900,000 voting cards, it asked whether Mr. Ghozali really thought that local authorities, mostly FIS supporters, would be honest.

Official appeals to voters who failed to get electoral cards for last month's first ballot appeared in newspapers on Tuesday.

Hundreds of young people were going door-to-door in Annaba to try to update election lists which left 40,000 people — 15 per cent of the nearly 300,000-strong electorate — without cards, the Algerian news agency APS said.

The most stridently anti-FIS newspaper, Alger Republicain, asked: "How many more facts are needed to cancel the election..."

U.N. envoy favours peace force in Somali capital

NAIROBI (AP) — Calling obstacles to peace "formidable," a senior U.N. official said Monday that an international peacekeeping force was needed to restore order in Mogadishu, Somalia's war-torn capital.

"We cannot, in the 20th century, tolerate such a situation," James Jonah, U.N. undersecretary for African affairs, told journalists after a three-day peace mission to Somalia.

He said the United Nations would do everything it could to ensure a ceasefire in Mogadishu, which has been wracked by eight weeks of brutal clan fighting.

The United Nations estimates the fighting has killed or wounded up to 20,000 people, mostly women and children. Hundreds of thousands have fled Mogadishu and are camped without water, food or medicine in the surrounding shrub land.

Asked if a peacekeeping force was needed, Mr. Jonah said: "This would be my personal assessment, but I cannot say what the Security Council will do."

He declined to disclose his recommendations to U.N. Secretary General Butros Ghali, but said: "Obstacles to peace were formidable" — referring to the absence of a government and the presence thousands of armed men.

During his trip, Mr. Jonah met both General Mohammed Farrah Aidede, a warlord and chairman of the ruling United Somali Congress (USC), and his bitter rival, President Ali Mahdi Mohammed.

The two belong to separate sub-clans of the central Hawiye clan. Mr. Jonah reported Friday that Gen. Aidede rejected a ceasefire and any foreign intervention since he saw it as intrusion into Somalia's internal affairs. Gen. Aidede only agreed to designate three hospitals as "zones of tran-

quility" where international workers could treat the wounded.

On Monday, however, the humanitarian organisation doctors without borders withdrew five of its workers from Mogadishu after a bomb landed at one of the hospitals there.

After meeting Saturday with Ali Mahdi, Mr. Jonah said the president welcomed the idea of a peacekeeping force, but gave no further details.

The United Somali Congress chased former President Mohammed Siad Barre from Mogadishu last January after a month of bitter fighting that left the town in ruins. Mr. Ali Mahdi was appointed president and Gen. Aidede began plotting his ouster after he won party chairmanship in June.

Their rivalry first erupted into three days of bloodletting in September.

On Sunday, Mr. Jonah went to northern Somalia — which calls itself Somaliland republic after seceding in May — to see if it would consider rejoining the rest of the country. The region is ruled by the Somali National Congress, the oldest of the factions that sought Mr. Siad Barre's ouster.

Mr. Jonah later travelled its seaside town of Boosaaso, 1,120 kilometres north of Mogadishu. Earlier Sunday, unidentified gunmen had shot dead a Bulgarian doctor there with the United Nations Children's Fund and seriously wounded her Russian male colleague.

A Somali woman physician was also slain and a compatriot medical worker seriously injured in the attack. Mr. Jonah described the killings as "assassinations" and said the United Nations was considering temporarily evacuating its workers from Boosaaso.

O'Connor demonstrates a Vatican warming to Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — New York Cardinal John O'Connor, touring the Holy Land Monday, said the Vatican was demonstrating an openness with Israel and could play the role of peacemaker in the Middle East.

The Roman Catholic archbishop visited Catholic relief missions in the Biblical town of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. He also met with Mayor Elias Freij, who is a Palestinian delegate to the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Cardinal O'Connor later met with Labour Party leader Shimon Peres and then met with Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, at his office.

The Vatican and Israel are "moving closer to a convergence" and there seems to be "a maturing openness towards discussions," Cardinal O'Connor said to reporters after his meeting with Mr. Kollek.

"I am one who has been constantly encouraging movement along these lines," he added.

The Vatican has never established diplomatic relations with Israel, but has recognised its existence. One of the major issues preventing ties is the Jewish state's claim of "sovereignty over Jerusalem," which the Holy See prefers to place under international control.

On Sunday, Cardinal O'Connor departed from a longstanding Vatican policy against meeting Israeli leaders in their offices by seeing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at his occupied Jerusalem office and President Chaim Herzog at his official residence.

Asked if the Vatican had approved of this, Cardinal O'Connor said: "Well, I came down here from Rome."

During his last visit in 1987, the cardinal stirred a controversy when he agreed to meet with then-Foreign Minister Shimon Peres only at his occupied Jerusalem home. As a compromise he

did visit President Herzog at his official residence.

According to the cardinal, Pope John Paul II has said the Palestinian problem must be solved, the status of Jerusalem clearly defined, and the rights of Christians ensured before the Holy See would establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Cardinal O'Connor said that after the Gulf war an opportunity had been created for the Arab-Israeli conflict to be resolved.

"This seems to me to be an opportune time for the church to enter in as a peacemaker and reconciler," he said. "The church could help resolve the Middle East conflict because it is not a political power, but strictly a moral power."

The Roman Catholic prelate said the church has a natural understanding for the Arab side of the conflict because there are Palestinian Catholics and Christians.

But he said that there were injustices on both sides of the conflict: "I have repeatedly said that to impute injustices exclusively to Israel is a gross distortion."

Moshe Gilboa, adviser to Israel's foreign minister on church affairs, said a stream of world church leaders have visited Israel because the peace process has created a better atmosphere.

The head of the Church of England, Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, toured the occupied West Bank on Monday and attended Orthodox Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem on the second day of his visit. He is in the Holy Land to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Anglican Church in Jerusalem.

Cardinal O'Connor was scheduled to visit the city of Nazareth Tuesday before leaving for Rome. Israel was the last stop on the cardinal's 11-day swing through the Middle East after travelling to Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

Kuwaiti official's daughter 'duped' Congress on Iraqis

NEW YORK (R) — A Kuwaiti teenager who told the U.S. Congress that she saw Iraqi soldiers tear babies from incubators was identified on Monday as the Kuwaiti ambassador's daughter amid charges that she was used to deceive Americans in a propaganda war.

John MacArthur, a New York publisher and human rights activist who revealed the 15-year-old girl's identity, said she was used by a powerful Washington public relations firm to tell a widely disputed tale of Iraqi atrocities that helped steer the United States into the Gulf war.

The charges were angrily denied by her father, the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States Saud Nasir Al Sabah, and by the public relations firm, Hill and Knowlton, which works for Kuwait.

They insisted that Nayirah Al Sabah's testimony was true and based on what she saw during the occupation.

Hill and Knowlton also said that the head of the congressional human rights caucus, Democratic Representative Tom Lantos, and top committee staff members knew who she was and allowed her to testify in October 1990 without revealing her name to protect relatives still in Kuwait.

But John Edward Porter, the ranking Republican representative on the committee, said if he had known the girl was the ambassador's daughter, he would not have allowed her to testify.

Mr. Porter said several other witnesses at the hearing told similar stories and he thought there was strong evidence to support the charges against Iraq.

Mr. Lantos said he knew who

the girl was but added that it was conceivable that specifics were inaccurate. If it turned out that the girl was not a victim or a witness to atrocities, "I am owed an apology," Mr. Lantos said.

Reuters, in an earlier story on Monday, quoted Mr. Lantos as saying he did not know her identity, but the congressman said his remarks were misunderstood.

Mr. MacArthur, the publisher of Harper's magazine, revealed the girl's identity in an article in the op-ed page of the New York Times on Monday.

In a subsequent interview, he told Reuters, "I don't know whether she was lying or not. I can't be proved unless she comes forward again."

"But I know that the story of Iraqi soldiers ripping babies from incubators was disproved, and (human rights group) Amnesty International withdrew its report saying that 312 babies died that way."

Mr. MacArthur said that President George Bush used the incubator story six times in speeches and that seven senators cited it as a reason for their votes to give the president authorisation for going to war.

Ambassador Sabah said his daughter had told the truth about what she had seen in Kuwait during the occupation and that her charges had been later verified by the head of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, among other witnesses.

Mr. MacArthur said the whole incident proved that Hill and Knowlton, an international public relations agency that represents several other countries including Turkey and China, had an undue influence over Congress.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

2 Kuwaiti policemen seized near Iraqi border

KUWAIT (R) — Two Kuwaiti policemen were seized by Iraqi in the demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait on Tuesday, a spokesman for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said. Abdul Latif Kabbaj told Reuters Kuwaiti authorities informed UNIKOM, whose soldiers are patrolling the 240-kilometre long border between the two countries, of the incident. UNIKOM observers saw a Kuwaiti helicopter and eight vehicles carrying 15 Kuwaiti policemen setting out in search of the men. The incident was the first of its kind since three Kuwaiti fishermen were seized by the Iraqis about three weeks ago. They were released soon afterwards. UNIKOM was investigating the incident to try to get the men released. Mr. Kabbaj said. UNIKOM began patrolling the demilitarised zone — which extends 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait — after the U.S.-led allies ended the seventh-month Iraqi occupation of the Kuwait. Iraq has never accepted a boundary approved by the Arab League in 1962 after it claimed Kuwait was part of Iraq. Baghdad last week handed over two Americans and a Filipino who were held for nearly a month after straying into the demilitarised zone.

Azerbaijani president to visit Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Azerbaijan's President Ayaz Muttalibov will visit Turkey later this month for talks expected to focus on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute with Armenia and bilateral relations. The left-leaning Cumhuriyet daily on Tuesday quoted Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin as saying Mr. Muttalibov would visit Turkey from Jan. 23 to 25, his second trip here since Azerbaijan declared independence from the former Soviet Union in August. Turkey has previously offered to mediate in Azerbaijan's longstanding conflict with neighbouring Armenia over the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. "We suggested to Azerbaijan Prime Minister Hasan Hasanov that the Nagorno-Karabakh issue could be solved peacefully through bilateral talks," Mr. Cetin told Cumhuriyet. He was referring to a telephone call from Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel last month, urging Azerbaijan to show restraint when Soviet peace-keeping troops were leaving the enclave. Turkey has taken pains to avoid taking sides in the quarrel despite its ethnic and cultural affinities with Azerbaijan. Mr. Cetin said Turkey wanted to boost economic and diplomatic ties with the Caucasian republics on its doorstep. "We are deeply interested in developments in these republics and we follow all the issues between them," he added.

Israeli foreign minister to visit Portugal

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will go to Portugal on Sunday for a three-day official visit, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said Tuesday. Mr. Levy will discuss the Middle East peace process and improving European-Israeli relations with Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva and Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, she said. Portugal assumed the rotating presidency of the European Community on Jan. 1. The EC condemned as illegal on Sunday Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians and called on all parties to avoid acts that would jeopardise the Middle East peace process. "The community and its member states express their grave concern following the recent decision by the Israeli government to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories, an illegal decision with regard to international law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention," the EC said in a statement.

U.N. resumes airlift to Sudanese town

NAIROBI (AP) — After a four-month suspension, the United Nations has resumed an airlift of food to 150,000 war victims in a besieged town in southern Sudan. A statement sent to news organisations in Nairobi by the Rome-based U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) said the airlift to the regional capital of Wau began Monday. The statement said the airlift, using two chartered Antonov 26 cargo planes capable of carrying five tonnes, would deliver about 1,333 metric tonnes of food in the next two months. Wau, the capital of Bahr Al Ghazal province, is about 1,940 kilometres south of Sudan's capital of Khartoum and is besieged by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The aircraft will make two trips each day from Al Obeid, another provincial town about 640 kilometres north of Wau. Relief organisations, including United Nations agencies, suspended all flights to Wau in September after a WFP-chartered Hercules L-100 cargo plane was destroyed by a land mine on landing and the crew badly injured. The statement said food supplies had dwindled to near starvation levels and quoted the area's Roman Catholic Bishop Joseph Nytekeni as saying "the lives of thousands of human beings are at stake." Before the airlift was suspended, the United Nations had delivered about 666 of a planned 2,000 metric tonnes of food. Wau, like most of southern Sudan, is gripped by fighting between government forces and the SPLA. The rebels took up arms in 1983 to fight for increased autonomy for the predominantly Christian and animist south.

5 railway workers killed in Sudan accident

KHARTOUM (AP) — Five railway workers were killed when their train derailed as they were on their way to salvage a passenger train that had a similar accident earlier, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The government-run Al Sudan Al Hadith said the workers were on going from the town of Gebeit in eastern Sudan to Shendi, 450 kilometres to the north when the accident occurred. The report said no one was hurt in the passenger train that derailed at Jabel Tari, 75 kilometres north of the capital Khartoum.

Egyptian trawler rescues Ethiopian seamen

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian trawler rescued 54 Ethiopian seamen from rough Red Sea waters after their ship sank in bad weather, Egyptian officials said on Tuesday. They said six crewmen drowned when the unnamed Ethiopian ship went down on Dec. 27 midway between Eritrea and Yemen, the officials said. The Egyptian trawler answered its distress call and arrived at the scene later that day. The rescued sailors were in good condition when they landed on Tuesday at the remote Egyptian town of Shalatein near the border with Sudan. Last month an Egyptian ferry with about 650 people on board hit a reef and sank off Egypt's Red Sea Port of Safage. At least 350 passengers and crew drowned.

JORDAN TELEVISION

7:31/11-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Le Monde est a Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Teach
21:00 Voice of the Planet
21:30 News in English
22:00 A Man for All Seasons

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:32 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:41 Dhuhr
14:28 'Asr
16:51 Maghreb
18:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfeth, Tel. 810740
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623490
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623490
De la Sable Church Tel. 661757
Terra Santa Church Tel. 623466

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623491

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683520
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823821, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be light and variable, changing at times to northwesterly moderate, in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min/Max temp.
Amman 3 / 12
Aqaba 5 / 18
Deserts 2 / 14
Jordan Valley 9 / 15

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 10, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 95 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bassim Qudoumi 646024
Dr. Abdul Majed Shahr 791405
Dr. Ahmad Sanchin 752118
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 785708
Fire pharmacy 661912
Fertows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoki pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamoun pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Abu Baker (—)
Al Shams Pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Hiyas (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 60321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)586732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)799090
Greece Catholic Hospital (02)275535
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)272225
Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/31
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)98323

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (09)3300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jordan (RJ)
10:00 Amman (RJ)
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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Jordan (RJ)
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24:00 Jordan (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:00 Istanbul (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 London (RJ)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
12:50 Colombo (RJ)
13:10 Cairo (RJ)
13:30 New Delhi (RJ)
13:50 Riyadh (RJ)
14:10 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
14:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
14:50 Sanaa (RJ)
15:10 Amman (RJ)
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MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apples 500 / 450
Bananas (Maknana) 550 / 500
Beans 530 / 450
Cabbage 180 / 120
Carrots 220 / 160
Cauliflower 320 / 250
Cucumbers (large) 250 / 200
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250
Eggplants 200 / 160
Garlic 650 / 550
Grapefruit 180 / 120
Lemon 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 320 / 260
Olives 800 / 700
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Oranges 420 / 350
Pepper (hot) 450 / 400
Pepper (sweet) 450 / 400
Potatoes 340 / 280
Sage 600 / 500
Spinach 180 / 120
Tomatoes 420 / 350

Bir Zeit University president condemns closure order, planned deportation of 12 Palestinians

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian Council of Higher Education in the Occupied Territories designated Tuesday as a day of solidarity with Bir Zeit University in protest to a recent decision by the Israeli occupation forces to renew the closure order against the university.

"As you might be aware of, Bir Zeit University has been closed since the beginning of the intifada in December 1987 by a series of consecutive military orders, each of which imposes a closure period of three months," said Dr. Hanna Nasir, president of Bir Zeit University, at a press conference held at the liaison office here. "Through this procedure, the university has by now been closed on a continuous basis for a period of more than four years."

Dr. Nasir said that the closure of Bir Zeit for four years has "seriously disrupted the academic and community life of the university."

"As far as we know, there has not been a case in history where a university has been

ordered closed for such a period," Dr. Nasir said. In the past 20 years, the university has been subjected to about 15 closure orders, he added.

The Israeli occupying forces renewed the closure order on Dec. 1, claiming that the order is "necessary for the maintenance of security in the occupied territories."

However, Dr. Nasir maintained that "these alleged security justifications seem mere excuses to cover for the policies which try to hamper Palestinian education."

"The Israeli policy towards the education of Palestinians is complementary to the Israeli political and military aims themselves — namely an attempt at a total subjugation of the Palestinian people and their land," Dr. Nasir said.

"The university considers the extended closure of its campus as a very serious offense, in fact it considers it a criminal offense against education," he added.

Dr. Nasir described the latest closure order as an "obstacle in the path of peace."

"This latest order comes at a time when a peace settlement

is envisioned," he said. "It clearly indicates that Israel is more interested in placing obstacles in the path of peace rather than being actively involved in it."

Dr. Nasir said the occupying forces have continuously harassed students, teachers and staff members at the university through "malicious practices" such as jailing thousands of students, beating, shooting, killing and deporting them.

The call for solidarity with Bir Zeit University comes at a particularly sensitive time as Israeli authorities are preparing to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"The university deplores and condemns the latest slated expulsion order of 12 Palestinians, two of whom are from the university community, one is a staff member and the other is a student," said Dr. Nasir, who was expelled in 1974 for being politically and socially active.

He identified the two deportees as Omar Nimr Assaf, a staff member working in the university's library, and Ali Faris Al Khatib, a business student at the university.

"This is not the first time the

university is affected by expulsion orders. Deportations included the president of the university, the head of the student council and some other faculty, staff members and students," Dr. Nasir said.

Dr. Nasir appealed to the international community to "move beyond mere condemnation and take immediate and effective measures to halt this illegal and immoral policy."

"We ask all concerned individuals as well as educational and public institutions and organisations to protest the closure and help put an end to the flagrant violations of Israel," Dr. Nasir said. "We ask that the United Nations, UNESCO, International Association of Universities and similar organisations take a more active role in dealing with these issues."

With a sense of determination, Dr. Nasir said that the university will stand up to the occupying forces and will "continue its struggle to see that it is re-opened and that its students faculty, staff and administration can resume their normal academic role on their campus without coercion or harassment."

Jordan's illiteracy rate down to 19% from 67.6% in 1961, report notes

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a space of 30 years, the Ministry of Education has succeeded in reducing the illiteracy rate in Jordan from 67.6 per cent to 19 per cent, according to a ministry report issued Tuesday.

By the end of the present century, the report said, the rate is expected to decline to nearly 8 per cent.

Thanks to intensive efforts on the part of educationists and the presence of 500 adult education and literacy centres, the illiteracy rate in the Kingdom declined from 67.6 per cent in 1961 to 19 per cent by the end of 1991, said the report, which was published in observance of the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy.

One of the recommendations and resolutions passed by the first National Educational Conference of 1987 was to reduce the illiteracy rate to zero by the end of the present century. But the ministry can only hope to bring down the rate to 8 per cent by the year 2000, the report said.

The reduction of the illiteracy rate in Jordan is considered a major achievement which was

accomplished through cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), according to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi.

Addressing a special ceremony organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women, the minister said that the ministry opened schools in various parts of the Kingdom in a bid to eradicate illiteracy completely. Through the adult education centres, the ministry has succeeded in providing basic education to 300,000 adults so far, the minister said.

The illiteracy rate among women in Jordan is four times that among men, the minister said at the ceremony.

General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Executive President Abdullah Al Kharib told the meeting that GUVS was cooperating closely with the Ministry of Education to carry out programmes for the eradication of illiteracy in the Kingdom.

At the end of the ceremony, the minister distributed diplomas to 70 graduates from vocational

training courses, including dress-making, trice and artificial flower arrangements.

The problem of illiteracy has deep adverse effects on social and economic sectors of any society and officials have been trying to deal with this problem by providing evening classes for illiterate people and those who did not have the opportunity to learn when they were young, the report noted.

Quoting international statistics, the report said that the number of illiterate people in the world is now estimated at one billion, nearly one quarter of the total number of adults. It said that 98 per cent of those illiterate persons are found in developing nations.

As to the Arab World, a 1985 statistical bulletin reported that there were 36 million illiterates. 51 per cent of the total Arab population above 15 years of age, the report noted. But, it said, by 1989 the number rose to 43 million, 44 per cent of the above 15 years of age category.

In 1952 the Ministry of Educa-

tion made basic education compulsory for all people, opening the way for male and female pupils to acquire education free for at least nine grades, later raising the level to 10 grades in 1987, the report pointed out.

It said that in the past year, the average number of registered students learning at the first primary class stood at 97 per cent of the total number of children of first primary class age.

Ensuring that children attend school is one way of dealing with the question of illiteracy, the report found. The other is through opening literacy and adult education classes for those who missed their basic education, the report added.

Now, these classes are spread all over the various governorates of the Kingdom, providing free education to illiterates. The report referred to the ministry's continued cooperation with the UNESCO and said that, like other countries, Jordan is benefiting from UNESCO's assistance in providing basic education to all citizens.

Conference to review work of local councils

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will organise a general conference for municipal and village councils in the Kingdom towards the end of January to review various issues relevant to the local councils' work.

The announcement was made by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzak Tubeishat, who said that laws and regulations related to the work of local councils will be reviewed. Many changes and developments occurred over the past decade, justifying a revision of existing regulations. Economic, social and demographic changes call for an upgrading of these laws to provide for expanded and improved services, said the minister.

The local councils should be helped to distribute their services in a fair manner and carry out their municipal projects, said Dr. Tubeishat.

The Ministry is contemplating the idea of organising elections at all towns in Jordan on the same day of the year, Dr. Tubeishat noted.

He also announced that the ministry was examining the prospect of creating a major municipality for the greater Irbid region.

Minister denies report that governors' action during snowstorm will be reviewed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul Tuesday denied a report in Al Dustour daily Monday that four governors will be asked to account for their shortcomings during the past snowstorm, noting that all officials spared no effort in dealing with the consequences of the weather conditions.

The report is totally groundless and has no truth, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

All citizens in all governorates realise that the governors were at the head of the teams involved in providing relief assistance to the public in their respective areas, the minister said.

Mr. Shoul made the statement on the second day of his return here from a meeting in Tunis where he discussed with Arab ministers of interior means of promoting security in the Arab World and facilities for Arab travellers in Arab countries. Several resolutions were passed related to these matters.

Two local dailies Tuesday dealt on the consequence of the severe weather conditions in the Kingdom, with Al Dustour daily calling on the government to open an inquiry to investigate into shortcomings on the part of a number of departments.

The paper also called for the creation of emergency committees to deal with similar situations



Jawdat Al Shoul

and coordinate the work of the civil defence, the public works and the armed forces involved in dealing with the results of the weather conditions.

Al Ra'i daily noted with satisfaction reports about replenishment of the dams in the Kingdom. But, it said that since some of these dams were filled with water in the first month of the rainy season, it was reasonable to think about building more dams to collect more water which was being lost.

The paper noted that the government had earlier announced plans to build dams, but the projects were not implemented. The snowstorm and frost have, however, left negative effects on

the crops in the northern Jordan Valley region. A report in the local press said that the frost harmed large areas of farmlands in the Mashare and Wadi Yabis regions with areas sustaining up to 90 per cent losses.

Some areas estimated at 50 dunums grown with barley were said to have been inundated with River Jordan water when it swelled during the storm. According to the report, farmlands grown with marrows, potatoes and bananas were affected and that some citrus trees were ruined.

Meanwhile, residents of Wadi Mousa and other areas in the south, which was the worst hit by the storm, reported Tuesday that electricity had been restored to their region Monday evening. According to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) sources, the last few villages in the south will have their electric power supply restored by Tuesday evening.

Several ministers were reported Tuesday still supervising the work of teams in reopening roads and offering other vital assistance to the inhabitants of Maan, Tafleeh and other areas.

A Jordanian benefactor, Riyadh Al Mifleh, Tuesday announced his donation of 80 tonnes of flour to the needy people of Tafleeh, Shobak and Maan. The Jordan National Red Crescent Society is to take charge of distributing the flour donation in the coming two days.

Committee looks at ways of informing people on need to protect environment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Information Committee of the Higher Steering Committee for the National Strategy on the Environment Tuesday met under the chairmanship of Interior Ministry Secretary General Trad Al Fayez and discussed the committee's work, duties and issues assigned to it.

It also looked into means of implementing the policies and programmes capable of informing people of the importance of safeguarding the environment.

Mr. Al Fayez stressed the importance of activating the role of information in translating the National Strategy for Safeguarding the Environment and the need for formulating a policy to support the strategy.

Mr. Al Fayez reiterated the importance of forging closer

coordination among the official and private media and the other sectors involved in implementing the national strategy. He called for translating the strategy into information programmes, for showing slides, sending out flyers and delivering lectures highlighting the importance of protecting the environment.

He said that the Jordanian National Charter has called for protecting the environment and stressed the need for ensuring a clean and balanced environment, saying that it is one of the rights every citizen is entitled to.

Mr. Al Fayez called for protecting the Jordanian environment from pollution for the interest of the present and future generations.

Mr. Al Fayez also highlighted

the importance of creating a central committee which should be entrusted with carrying out the information work needed to inform citizens of the need to protect the environment. He called for providing a special budget for this committee.

The meeting came up with an agreement to form a mini-information committee which will work out a plan of action. Participants also suggested that a higher information committee be formed with minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment as its head.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Saleh Al Shara'a, director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Ministers tour southern regions

MAAN (Petra) — Ministers of labour, water and irrigation and social development Tuesday continued their tour of the southern regions of Jordan inspecting relief work and the reopening of roads blocked by snow.

Qasem Gharaibeh, Maan's governor, briefed the ministers on the general situation, giving details about the water, electricity, fuel supplies and other essential services. He said that all roads in the governorate were reopened but the roads leading to the villages were still blocked.

The governor told the ministers that the badia police and army helicopters were following up the work of supplying bedouin settlements with basic food supplies and strenuous efforts were being exerted to restore electricity to villages in the Shobak area.

The three ministers inspected Wadi Mousa, where roads were reopened Tuesday, and met with the municipal council and Parliament members of the southern area to discuss services.

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, an article on page 3 of Tuesday's edition of the Jordan Times incorrectly stated that a seminar to discuss commercial applications of solar and wind energy was to begin Tuesday. The seminar will take place in the period of April 7 and April 16. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY 132KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE ZERKA-SABHA ADVERTISEMENT FOR ISSUE OF TENDERS FOR THE OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE

Jordan Electricity Authority declare their intention to issue Tender Documents for supply and installation of 132KV double circuit overhead transmission line between Hussein Thermal Power Station at Zerka to a new substation in Sabha northeast of Jordan with a total length of about 40km. This project includes three separate tenders as follows:

Tender 46/91:
This Tender includes the design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the insulator sets and conductor's and earthwire's fittings for the A/M line.

Tender 47/91:
This Tender includes the design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the conductors and earthwires for this line.

Tender 48/91:
This Tender includes:
A- Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of steel towers for the A/M line according to the issued General and Technical Conditions.
B- Receiving of other materials including insulator sets, conductors and earthwires from the owner.
C- Installation of the complete line according to the issued General and Technical Conditions.

Tenders must be submitted to Jordan Electricity Authority Head Offices located at Jabal Amman, Seventh Circle including a bid bond or certified cheque for a value of not less than 2% of the tender price.

Tender Documents can be obtained from Jordan Electricity Authority Head Offices starting from Wednesday 8.1.1992 against a receipt of payment or acceptable cheque for value of JD 100 for each of tenders 46/91 and 47/91 and JD 300 for tender 48/91.

In case that tenderer requires the tender documents to be sent to him by mail, the air mail cost will be added. The latest date for submission of tenders is not later than 12 o'clock Jordan time on 13.4.1992.

The offers should be valid for 150 days from the submission date.

وزارة الأشغال العامة والإسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS TO RE-TENDER FOR THE NORTH GHORS CONVERSION PROJECT

The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has secured a loan for financing the construction of this project from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

Applications are invited from:

- Local Jordanian Contractors classified:
- a) with first grade in both water & sewerage and in Electro-Mechanical, or
- b) with first grade in water & sewerage, in joint venture with first grade in Electro-Mechanical.
- Japanese Contractors, and
- Contractors of all developing countries, as defined in article 1.1. (b) of the Memorandum of Understanding of Unifying of Bilateral Development Loans, in accordance with the following conditions:

Noting that all firms that were previously prequalified for participation in the first tender need not apply again for prequalification and they will be considered qualified to tender provided that they designate in writing to the Secretary General of JVA their interest in being considered for invitation for the re-tender before February 01, 1992.

1. Description of Project:

- Civil Works: These comprise: 10 turnouts along King Abdullah Canal including sand traps, sumps for pumping stations and gravity turnouts and an operator's dwelling block at each turnout.
- Electro-Mechanical Works: These include: 29 Pumping Units, 10 Mechanical screens, 10 mechanical trash racks, valving and controls, motor control centres, outdoor lighting for the areas of the turnouts and pumping stations and other ancillary electro-mechanical works.

c) Pipeline Networks and Roads: These include:

- 280 kms of pipelines between 100-700mm diameter
- 48 kms new service roads.
- 170 kms rehabilitation of existing service roads.
- 2300 farm turnout assemblies.

2. Prequalification forms may be obtained from the Government Tender Directorate, Ministry of Public Works & Housing, starting January 11, 1992 against a non-refundable fee of JD 100.

3. The present schedule is to make tender documents available to Prequalified Contractors on March 01, 1992, and contract will be awarded on July 01, 1992.

4. Last date for submission of prequalification form and documentation at the Government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works and Housing shall be Feb. 01, 1992 at 1:30 p.m. before February 01, 1992.

1. Description of Project:

- Civil Works: These comprise: 10 turnouts along King Abdullah Canal including sand traps, sumps for pumping stations and gravity turnouts and an operator's dwelling block at each turnout.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Eng. Basheer Al Jaghbeer

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة صحفية عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

The truth emerges

THE UNITED Nations Security Council resolution adopted Tuesday condemning Israel for its decision to expel 12 Palestinians is a significant precedent. Gone are the days when the U.S., fighting its Cold War with the Soviet Union, would veto any resolution condemning Israel or water it down. In fact, on this occasion, the U.S. was very quick to censure Israel and to call on it to reverse its decision.

The Security Council resolution is, therefore, a major triumph for the Arabs and the Palestinians. The resolution is a strong indication that the U.N. is still very much involved in the Middle East and that the Security Council members are committed to international legitimacy as embodied in the U.N. Charter and other conventions, like the Fourth Geneva Convention. The resolution also shows that the U.S., no more constrained by the states of the Cold War and driven by its commitments towards its Arab allies during the Gulf war, is determined to tell Israel that it cannot continue to call the shots in the Middle East peace process. But more importantly, Resolution 726 has come about by the show of resolve and solidarity on behalf of the Arab parties to the peace talks. So far, the Arabs have shied away from taking a strong bargaining position lest they be accused, as in the past, of sabotaging the U.S. peace initiative. Moreover, the Arab parties to the peace process have not until this week forged a solidly coordinated position. This week's episode which culminated in Resolution 726 should expel Arab fears and should give them more confidence and resolve. The Arab parties have demonstrated to the whole world, especially in Washington, their genuine determination to pursue peace. Israel, meanwhile, has not missed an opportunity to place obstacles in the path of peace. And the world already knows about both Arab and Israeli postures. Soon the Arabs will face the test once more. If Israel goes ahead with its plan to expel the 12 Palestinian nationalists, then the Arab parties must again take joint and strong action. This, of course, will not be the last obstacle that Israel erects in the path towards peace; it will stall and it will take more actions of defiance. Israel will continue to build settlements and oppress the Palestinians. The Arabs need not any longer fear being branded peace spoilers. The whole world knows they are not.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIANS seldom see harsh weather conditions like those witnessed in the past week and which still affect the southern regions of the country, but Jordanian citizens did all they could to reduce the consequences of the storm, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Since the storm was unusual, efforts to deal with its consequences were also unusual, prompting His Majesty King Hussein to express appreciation of these efforts, the paper said. It said that King Hussein thanked those involved in repair work, especially those who restored basic services like electricity and telephones, and the Armed Forces, which were instrumental in saving the lives of thousands of people in the south by opening roads and dropping food supplies. King Hussein appreciated these efforts, which he himself spearheaded, and expressed pride in his people and their diligence and perseverance under the difficult conditions, the paper continued. It is King Hussein who is always keen on issuing directives to the concerned authorities to provide the best services to the public, and it is his encouragement to his people to do their best that is touching the hearts of all Jordanians, the paper said. The paper added that the experience of the past week should give impetus to the concerned authorities to be prepared for difficult situations and to take extra precautionary measures to offer assistance and relief to the people affected by the changing moods of nature.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the U.N. Security Council's debate on Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinian citizens accused of being involved in resistance activity and said that the world community should not only act by issuing mere words condemning the Israeli practices, but rather take practical measures to prevent them. The daily said that the debate will expose to the world whether the U.N. organisation is serious about upholding its principles and its Charter or whether it would allow such atrocities to continue. The different countries' condemnation of Israel's action as declared by their governments should be translated not only through a council condemnation, but also through a practical step leading to ending Israel's occupation of Arab territory, the paper called. Should the Security Council persist in dealing with world issues based on two different criteria, the nations of the world are bound to lose their confidence in the organisation which can win the respect of no one, said the paper. The paper said no one doubts the fact that the United States can and must take some action at this moment to force the Israelis to desist from such malpractices and eventually bring about its total withdrawal from Arab lands in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Economic Forum

About savings and consumption

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

During the last two years, talk about savings and consumption was very much in vogue in Jordan. People unconsciously start to seek refuge in savings when they face mounting economic problems and find themselves running short of solutions. It is then that they start to remember the more-saving recipe in its capacity as the economic device which can be safely recommended because more savings will never do harm if they do not do any good. In last Wednesday's column the theme that what matters is not the level of consumption but its composition was highlighted. Consumption satisfied from domestic production is virtuous but that satisfied from imports is detrimental. Higher consumption is the goal of economic activity: a successful economic policy is the one that boosts both consumption and savings simultaneously through bolstering economic growth.

The aim of the present article is to show that more savings can sometimes be meaningless. This is a rather sophisticated academic hypothesis, but such expositions are necessary because, apparently, some of us are straying into academic misconceptions and not putting savings in the correct perspective.

According to the two-gap approach to economic development, articulated mainly by H. B. Chenery and A. Strout, there are three phases during each of which the attainment of self-sustained growth in a developing country is frustrated by a different

constraint. The first phase is the skill-limited growth during which the shortage of skills impedes the undertaking of investments needed to raise the economic growth to the target rate.

With the passage of time and thanks to various contributing factors (education, training, technical assistance) the skill-constraint diminishes and gives way to shortage of savings as the binding constraint. This is the phase of the saving-limited growth where savings are not adequate to finance the investments required to attain the target growth rate.

However, even as and when savings grow and become adequate, required investments will not be realisable if the developing country has not the adequate foreign exchange needed to import the necessary inputs, especially capital goods and raw materials. This is the trade-limited growth.

The phase sequence exposed above is not inevitable. The skill-limited phase may be succeeded by either the saving-limited or trade-limited phase each of which may, moreover, last indefinitely. However, Chenery and Strout found in their crosscountry studies that the sequence of stages is generally skill-limited, saving-limited and then trade-limited in that order.

Going back to Jordan, one notices that Jordan is passing through a trade-limited phase where growth is a function of the availability of foreign exchange. The current emphasis of our

economic policy on boosting savings is not necessarily warranted because it seems that the managers of this policy and some observers do not at all conceive a meaningless state of oversaving. To explain, and without going into much technical details, it is not desirable in this phase to boost savings beyond a certain limit because the basic issue is the provision of additional foreign exchange, either through more exports, less imports (of goods and services) or more foreign aid. Otherwise, equilibrium in the economy is achieved, to quote Chenery and Strout, through "actual savings falling short of potential savings — for example, through lower taxes or more liberal consumer credit — or undertaking of some more capital intensive projects." In simpler words, Chenery and Strout wanted to say that savings would not be in excess; if they were, they would be used to finance less productive investments.

Indeed, we do not want to enmesh the reader into technicalities, but we want to say that the managers of our economic policy should place the priority emphasis on where it should be, namely on the trade gap not the saving gap. This means, first and foremost, checking imports (of goods and services). Our savings are healthy and adequate provided we specify them correctly. The correct specification of Jordan's savings will be the subject of this column next week.

Aid to Israel hampers peace progress

By William G. Kelsey

There is no companion but love,
No beginning nor ending yet a road.
The friend calls from there:
"Why do you hesitate when life is in danger?"

— Rumi

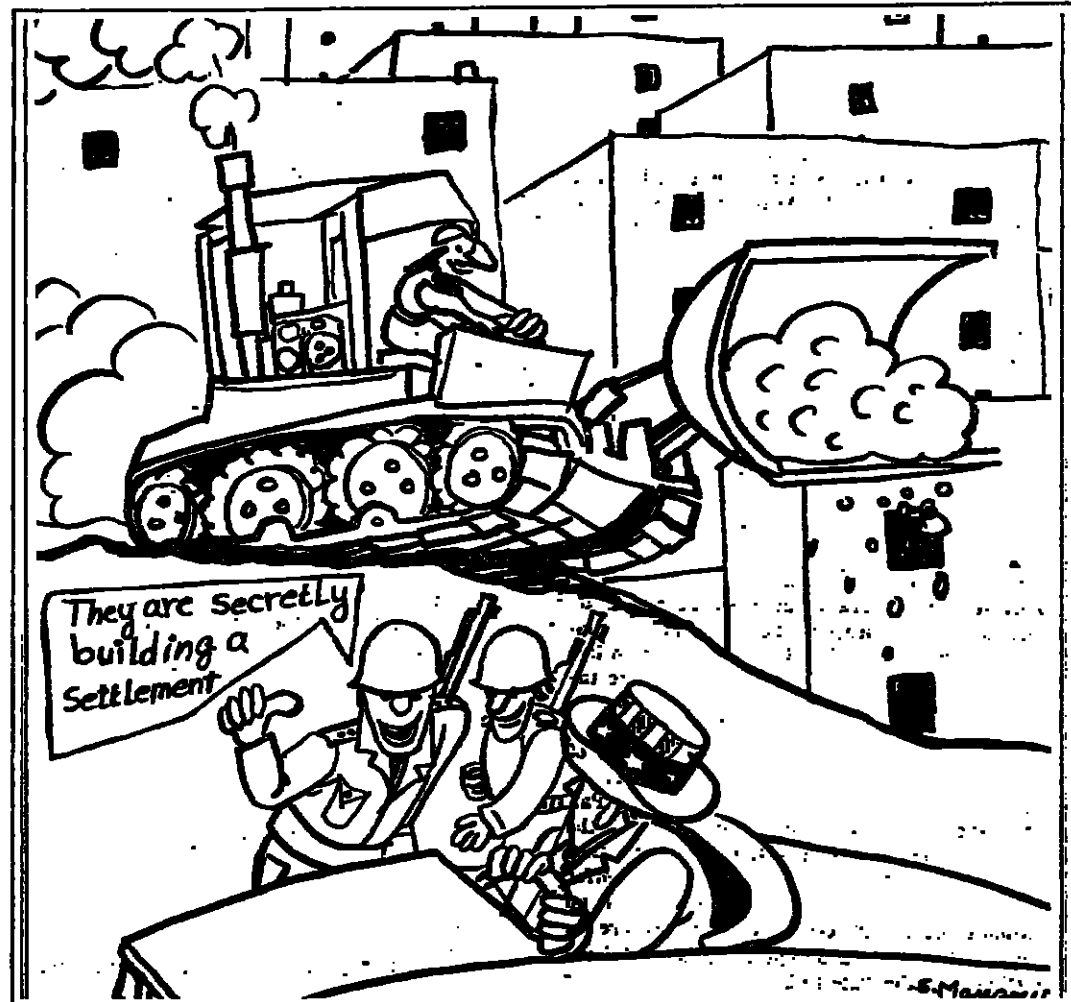
VIETNAM veteran Brian Willson is known in the peace community for his activism on Central America. Four years ago, during a protest against munitions shipments to El Salvador, he was sitting on the train track leading from the Concord Naval Weapons Centre in California. The train refused to stop, Brian refused to get up, and lost his legs and part of his skull as a result. He has since continued to work tirelessly for peace around the world, often organising veterans' delegations to visit the targets of U.S. intervention abroad. It was my privilege to serve as translator, coordinator, money changer, taxi fletcher and so on during a recent six-week trip to Israel/Palestine, Jordan, and Iraq. We were a total of eight former members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were now committed to the cause of peace. Some of us were admitted war criminals, having directly caused death and suffering abroad before discharge. Others had refused to participate and were discharged as a result. Phil Roettinger, a World War II Marine combat hero, had risen to the rank of colonel before transferring to the CIA. In 1954, at the direct instruction of Alan Dulles, he personally managed the overthrow of the Arbenz government in Guatemala. With the resulting blood of a hundred thousand on his conscience, Phil spends his retirement urging others not to commit similar misdeeds. John Schuchardt, also a former Marine officer, had refused to go to Vietnam. During the war against Iraq, he gained international recognition speaking truth to power in President Bush's Kennebunkport church service.

Most readers casually familiar with the tragedies of Israel/Palestine know that "sabra" refers to a native born Israeli. Less than one half of all Israelis are sabras. The rest are immigrants. Those more acquainted with Israeli culture know that the native born Israelis have been named sabra after the prickly pear cactus ubiquitous in the area. The fruit is tough and prickly on the outside but soft and sweet on the inside. Few in the West know that sabra is actually the Arabic name for the fruit in the singular. The cactus itself is called *sabr* which means "patience." I learned this the hard way as a child near Nablus when I tried to pick a peel one with my bare hands. The fuzzy thorns looked and felt innocuous at first. My friends knocked the sabra out of my fingers. They began to pick

the little thorns out of my hands, but many were near microscopic and afflicted me for days. "That's why it's called sabra. You need patience to get this fruit." This cactus serves as an apt metaphor for what we, in the West, understand about Israel. Indeed for every story there's a deeper one behind it. The sabra also haunts Israel in a physical sense; for in old Palestine, villagers used this cactus as fencing for their gardens. It is impermeable to people, donkeys, goats, and sheep. It is also maddeningly indestructible. Israeli bulldozers, which successfully eliminated most traces of some four hundred Palestinian towns and villages, cannot get rid of it. The sabra plant keeps growing back to remind us of communities that once were.

I tell this story because I have learned over the years that to speak in America about what I witnessed growing up in the Middle East is to risk sounding as "far out" as a member of the Flat Earth Society. Vigorous research can be painful. A trip to take an honest look at what is going on can be a great shock, even for those prepared to believe that they have been misled for so many years. It is imperative that searchers for truth overcome their reluctance to delve into a seemingly hopeless and complex cauldron of hatred and violence. The state of Israel, whose citizens number a tenth of a percent of the world's population, receives nearly as much foreign aid from the United States as the remaining 99.9 per cent. Something is askew here which is unhealthy for Israel and lethal for Palestinians. We have a responsibility to learn.

We are told that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. A brilliant candle in Israel is the movement named Yesh Gvul, which means, "there's a limit." Its members set limits on their military service according to their own consciences. For most this means they will serve loyally in the Israeli Armed Forces only within the 1948 borders. They generally refuse to serve as occupation soldiers in the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon, or as guards in detention camps. Most able-bodied Israeli men are in the reserves, and are called up yearly. When members of Yesh Gvul are called up, they refuse to move with their units if the assignments are beyond their personal moral limits. They are then confined to military prisons for the duration of their service. On Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, which fell on Sept. 10, prominent writer and Yesh Gvul member Peretz Kidron took our group to a celebration on the slopes of Mount Carmel, overlooking Athlit military prison. The ceremony, with the traditional apples and wine, was in honour of prisoner Barak Ben-Gal, aged eight years. Because he is not a reservist, but a conscript at the beginning of his regular service, his struggle



will be a long one. His one hundred-odd supporters gave speeches and sang songs into megaphones while holding large banners. It was truly an inspiration to know that in a world gone mad there could be found young people with the wisdom, foresight, and courage to say "no." During our turn at the megaphone we reminded the prisoners and their guards of Einstein's statement that "the pioneers of a warless world are those who refuse military service." Beyond us lay the shimmering Mediterranean and on its shores the ruins of a crusader castle — which added a special perspective to the scene.

Controversy in the West centres on what the Israelis are doing in the "occupied territories" — those areas taken in 1967. Yet the goings on in Israel "proper" — those areas taken in 1948 — can also be quite unsavoury. The Israeli peace movement deserves credit for bringing the village of Rimya to international attention. Our group had the privilege of joining several hundred Israelis and Palestinians for a "day of solidarity" on Sept. 14, two days before the scheduled demolition of the hamlet. We planted some "illegal" olive trees — illegal because the land had been confiscated and now "belonged" to the government.

About sixty years ago, a few nomadic Bedu from the Sawad clan decided to settle. They purchased a few acres, for which they received title deeds, and

planted olive trees, grape vines, and fig trees. When the state of Israel was established in 1948 they did not participate in the fighting and perhaps because their hilltop was remote they were not expelled. In fact, several of the men eventually joined the Israeli Defence Forces and later were issued title deeds recognised by the Israeli government. However, Rimya was never recognised as a village and was never connected to the water and electricity systems. The inhabitants did without and were happy to be left alone. In 1976, without their knowledge, the land was confiscated under the laws of eminent domain. The matter remained dormant until this year when the expanding Israeli town of Karmiel needed more housing for the Soviet immigrants. The villagers were then informed that they had to move to make way for the newcomers. Several outlying houses had already been demolished. In one case, a Palestinian Bedu who had served the Israeli army loyally for twenty years, placed an Israeli flag and an American flag on his house as a desperate measure to stop the destruction. It did no good and his flags and houses were bulldozed into a pile of rubble. The Soviet immigrants living in the new prefabricated apartments have no idea that they are on confiscated land. And the young men of Rimya have no intention of ever joining the Israeli army. Ironically, having been educated in Israeli schools, they know more

Hebrew and more about Judaism than the newcomers who are replacing them.

The justification for the Rimya confiscations is that because the Bedu were traditionally nomadic, they have no fixed dwelling places of concern. Despite the crudity of Israeli government actions, it was a source of great inspiration that Israelis of conscience, together with Palestinians from the Galilee, managed to tie up the case in court. The precedent will be significant. If it goes through, about forty similar villages in the Galilee and eighty elsewhere in Israel will face the same demolition.

Over and over, Israeli peace activists explained how their efforts were always undercut by the blank check given Israel by the U.S. Congress. No matter how outrageous Israeli government behaviours, the perpetrators were always rewarded by more funding. The Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace has addressed an open letter to Congress calling for serious cuts in the aid. Even in the case of the recent spat between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President George Bush over loan guarantees for \$10 billion, there are several points left out of public discussion. The first is that due to the Cranston Amendment of 1983, aid to Israel will always be set at a level to enable it to cover loan repayments. In substance, there is no such thing as a "loan" to Israel. Secondly, according to the terms of the delay, Israel will

receive additional compensation for the inconvenience of having had the delay. Finally, much revolved around the question of settling Soviet immigrants in the "occupied territories." In fact people are fungible and what is happening for the most part is that Israelis with military experience are being moved into settlements in the West Bank, Golan, and Gaza. They are then replaced in Israel "proper" by the new Soviet arrivals. For Israel to avoid settling Soviets in the territories would not be a concession of substance.

Despite the development of the formal peace talks, the occupation has become more and more vicious. It seemed that the Israeli authorities were no confident that they would get whatever they asked for from the United States that they made no effort to hide their actions. We witnessed daily random beatings, harassments, and public humiliations — not of stone throwers or of terrorists, but of people going about their daily life. For those Palestinians who do resort to serious confrontation, the stakes have become very high. Beyond the shootings-to-kill of stone throwers there are the death squad executions of about forty-five Palestinians in recent months. (The Palestinians claim more — the figure of forty-five is given by international observers who have names, dates, and circumstances of each case.)

I spent my childhood as an American among the Jordanian and Palestinian people. I have worked in the Middle East as an adult. I have been asked to accompany delegations as a translator and have kept Americans out of trouble from (literally) Armageddon to Babylon. In short, I know my way around the area. I submit that if a vicious anti-Semitism wish to inflict upon the Jewish people the worst possible curse — the curse of a eternity of bereavement, sorrow and stress, one could do no better than to applaud and support the actions of the Israeli government and to call for continued American aid. The timidity with which American politicians and even people of conscience have examined the issue, and the reluctance to take a principled stand for fear of alienating supporters of Israel, — Christian and Jewish — has become a form of enabling behaviour. This co-dependence has guaranteed that individuals come to power in Israel who not only savage the Palestinian people, but who "get Jews killed." As one who is in constant dialogue with the meaning of the Holocaust, and who sincerely wishes that Jews live in peace "under vine and fig tree" with the Palestinians, and who knows that it's possible, I call on all people of conscience to work for a complete and unconditional cutoff of U.S. government aid to the state of Israel. It will give peace a chance.

Ozone could be erased with hydrocarbon — scientists

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A fleet of planes spraying 50,000 tonnes of propane or ethane high over the South Pole could neutralise the Antarctic ozone hole, say scientists. They admit the idea is impractical, but believe it could start serious discussion.

"This is a concept and not a proposal," said Ralph Cicerone, professor of geosciences at the University of California and co-author of a study to be published Friday in the journal Science. "We are serious about thinking about these things, but we aren't serious about going out and doing them yet."

Mr. Cicerone and two other scientists created a computer model that suggests that by in-

jecting 50,000 tonnes of some hydrocarbon, such as propane and ethane, into the dark, bitterly cold, wintertime South Polar sky they could start a chemical reaction that would prevent the seasonal destruction of ozone in the southern stratosphere.

They said the gas would have to be sprayed by a squadron of several hundred large airplanes during the few weeks of the southern winter.

The plan, said Mr. Cicerone, is not an idea whose time has come. But he believes it is an idea that humanity may have to consider closely over the next century.

For more than a decade now, scientists have known that the ozone layer over the South Pole thins sharply during the winter. They have blamed it on chlorine atoms, released by human indus-

try, which interact with ozone in the presence of darkness, stratospheric clouds and deep cold.

These atoms strip one of three oxygen atoms from ozone molecules. When this happens millions of times, the ozone layer is thinned, creating what has been called an "ozone hole" over Antarctica.

Ozone is important to life on earth because it blocks ultraviolet rays from the sun. This type of radiation causes sunburn, skin cancer, weakens the immune system and kills some forms of life. Already, scientists have detected increased ultraviolet radiation in Australia following the seasonal hole over the South Pole.

Industrial nations acknowledged the danger and agreed to stop producing the chemicals responsible, principally chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs.

But Mr. Cicerone said the chlorine atoms that cause the hole will remain active in the atmosphere for about 100 years.

"We believe the ozone hole will reappear every year for about a hundred years, even though the world has now taken good action to stop the flow of chlorofluorocarbons," he said in an interview.

In the century ahead, said Mr. Cicerone, the situation may become intolerable and people will start looking for solutions. He worries that when that day comes, humanity will be ill-prepared for such global environmental manipulation.

Mr. Cicerone and Scott Elliott and Richard Turco, also of the University of California, designed a computer simulation to

test their idea.

They concluded that hydrocarbon molecules would bind with chlorine atoms in the polar stratosphere and prevent the interaction with ozone. Mr. Cicerone said it would take 50,000 tonnes of hydrocarbon gas to do the job and that the process would have to be repeated annually until the manmade chlorine atoms finally decay.

Mr. Cicerone said that the model suggests using ethane or propane because these hydrocarbons decay in about a month in the atmosphere.

"If there is some unintended side effect, it would be limited to how long these things could survive," he said. "A month is not long enough for the problem to spread much beyond Antarc-

tica."

Hydrocarbons neutralise the ozone destruction by binding with the chlorine atoms and taking them out of circulation during the polar winter.

Mr. Cicerone said the hydrocarbons and chlorine atoms would form hydrochloric acid and peroxide and other chemicals which now are being made naturally in the atmosphere.

Though the chlorine atoms would be neutralised for a time, Mr. Cicerone said they eventually would be liberated again to cause more ozone mischief. For this reason, the fleet of airplanes would have to fly annually.

Science, which published the study, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

هكذا من الامم

Will 1992 be a harbinger of gloom for Iraq?

By Mariam Shahin

BAGHDAD — The mood in the Iraqi capital was somber as the country entered 1992. Iraqis awaited the fulfillment of their wishes, but felt that there was little chance that any of their wishes would become reality. The nightmare of the past months continues.

The Iraqis watched in 1991 as several members of the Arab and Islamic nation, the umma, joined foreign armies to bomb Iraq in order to restore the Kuwaiti rulers.

The ferociousness with which the allies attacked left no doubt in the minds of the Iraqis that the war was not to "liberate Kuwait," fight Saddam Hussein or restore human rights and dignity to the people of the Middle East. Most Iraqis still cannot explain why the war took place.

Iraqis who were opposed to their regime were strongly encouraged by the U.S. and its allies, to revolt only to be stabbed in the back. The Americans retreated and left the Iraqi rebels meet their fate at the hands of the Republican Guards. As the condition of the mosques of Ali, Hassan and Hussein in Karbala and Najaf will still testify, "betrayal" is not forgiven in Iraq. About 40,000 Iraqi soldiers are still in the Saudi desert and would rather stay where they are than go home.

As the anniversary of the

beginning of war nears, it becomes clear that for Iraqis, supportive of or opposed to the government, friends hardly exist.

The international community has condemned them and sentenced them without trial. Let them suffer by bombs and sanctions, the sentence seems to say; death by starvation or the bullet.

As the central government regained control after the war and the uprisings, the bureaucratic workings of the country resumed.

The government has lessened the burden on its shoulders by actively encouraging privatisation of small industries, the service sector, much of the agricultural sector, the construction companies, the import-export companies and is looking for buyers for the national air carrier, Iraqi Airways.

Those with money can and will buy. But who has it? The money that is being circulated is often U.S. dollars and belongs to the privileged class. The privileged, unlike the once large Iraqi middle class amassed hard currency. Thus the 1,000 per cent black market valued Iraqi dinar did not affect them.

The middle class, however, remains impoverished and incapable of doing anything but barely surviving. Physicians, engineers and university professors can barely get food on

the table.

The government recently tried to lessen the heavy economic woes being felt by some two million public sector employees (including army personnel), by increasing salaries by 20 per cent. But that leaves the vast majority of Iraqis in the same predicament.

Two different rationing systems, one available to all Iraqis and one just for government employees, have made survival possible for the population.

The government, however, will continue to find it difficult to supply adequate foodstuff to the people as long as Iraqi assets remain frozen. While private entrepreneurs are actively bringing in foodstuff at exorbitant prices, the government is running out of cash and must rely on its foreign assets which are for the most part still frozen.

That is an added burden on Iraq, which before Aug. 2, 1991, used to import 70 per cent of its food needs. Only two of the 30 countries where \$4 billion in Iraqi assets are frozen, have released some Iraqi funds.

Nutritional experts say almost one child in three is malnourished in Iraq today. Efforts by the government to buy food and medicine in accordance with U.N. Resolution 706, have failed so far. Letters of credit have been issued and sent to pharmaceutical companies and food merchants all over the

world, Iraqi officials say. Yet, only Switzerland and Greece have agreed to unfreeze some of the Iraqi assets and allow the government to buy food and medicine.

The other countries holding Iraqi assets keep them frozen despite a U.N. agreement issued last May authorising the unfreezing of the assets for the purchase of food and medicines.

Britain promised to release \$125 million of Iraqi assets in November, but so far the promise has not produced a single shipment of food or medicines.

Conditions differ somewhat in different parts of the country but on one, but the very rich, has been spared the wrath of war and destruction.

The Kurds

The fate of the 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds in the north seems sealed. "Fight and die for feudalism," seems to be the banner of their leaders Masoud Barazani and Jalal Talabani.

While they have been persecuted by the Arabs, Turks and the Persians, it was the British Royal Air Force which first bombed Kurdish villages in 1920 — a footnote in history their leaders conveniently forgot when they appealed to the West for help.

However, for all the media attention given to their struggle

for independence and self-determination, the West has shown itself incapable of supporting them with more than blankets and TV dinners.

The root of the Kurdish problem has been addressed by no Westerner of stature and the humanitarians of the world continue to pretend that the issue is about medicine, blankets, clean water and the Kurdish language when the call of the people is clearly for a united, independent Kurdistan.

But the people who denied the Kurds statehood in the first half of this century are unlikely to push Arabs, Turks or Iraqis to grant it to them now.

In the age of new Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Eritrea, Croatia and others, statehood seems to be a problem only for Palestinians and Kurds.

The thousands of Kurdish babies, women and old people, who died in the mountains of Turkish Kurdistan last spring, were the victims of not only the Iraqi war machine but also of what seems to have been almost negligence at best and a Western Machiavellian policy at worst.

The Kurds needed to come down from their mountains to eat and find water. The Turks did not allow it. The Americans, the British and the French chose not to pressure their Turkish allies.

Today Kurdish troops con-

trol their own areas. They live in tents and border villages. Almost all the men are unemployed. Many in the past were employed by the Iraqi government and official institutions. The families attempt to survive on the produce of 30 per cent of their usual crop and U.N. handouts. The mortality rate of children is almost four times what it used to be before the sanctions and the war.

The hope of autonomy for the Kurds, as envisioned in the 1984 agreement between Saddam Hussein and Jalal Talabani, has faded. The Kurds, Saddam feels, have betrayed him when he was most vulnerable. Many Iraqis, more importantly, feel that the Kurds have betrayed Iraq, a state Kurdish leaders say they want to be part of.

Saddam was willing to sign a broad autonomy agreement with the Kurds in 1984, but Ankara made sure that it was never signed by the government of Baghdad.

Despite the official lifting of the blockade between central Iraq and the Peshmerga-controlled areas, people travelling north are still stripped of all foodstuffs. Petrol prices in Peshmerga-controlled Kurdish areas are 20 times more than in the rest of Iraq.

Many Kurds insist that oil-rich Kirkuk should be part of their autonomous area. Baghdad insists that it is Arab. No Iraqi, Kurd or Arab, admits that Kirkuk is neither Kurdish nor Arab but Turkoman.

America is busy now and so is Britain, the Kurds are no longer a fashionable issue. The Kurds, for now and the foreseeable future, must make a deal where there is one to be made — in Baghdad.

The south

Meanwhile, the Shiites in the south are even less in the limelight than the Kurds, principally because they never made it to the Western prime time popularity charts.

Between Saddam and death they choose death and died without vindication. The survivors had chosen Saddam. Unlike the case with the Kurds, most of whom receive U.N. rations, Saddam supplies the south with some commodities at affordable prices. The Baghdad government worked day and night to repair the extensive damage to the Shiite holy places.

One local security officer called it the "restoration of the southern soul."

However, the misery reigning in the south is not unusual.

A woman in Baghdad said matter-of-factly that "the south has always been miserable."

The unfair distribution of wealth between north and south has plagued many if not most countries in the world. But in a country as rich as Iraq the impoverishment of the south seems particularly acute.

A 70 per cent unemployment rate, a fivefold increase in prices of foodstuffs on the open market and an average monthly salary, for those with jobs, of 200 Iraqi dinars, or \$18, is hardly the stuff that the good life is made of.

A threefold increase in child mortality, the lack of most medicines and the breakdown of the water desalination system build three years ago is likely to weaken the already helpless and destitute.

Dirty water, little food and nothing to do are slowly but surely driving the south into a mass depression.

One Basra psychiatrist could only say: "The story of the southern Iraqis is not an afternoon soap-opera but a real life nightmare."

The writer, on the staff of the Jordan Times, has recently returned from her fifth visit to Iraq.

Security Council clears impasse

(Continued from page 1)

office on Jan. 1, called on Israel to reconsider the expulsions.

"At a time when efforts are under way to sustain momentum in the Middle East peace process, the secretary-general hopes that all sides will refrain from acts that can serve only to heighten tension in the area and to undermine the confidence that is so essential to any effective negotiating process."

His remarks were contained in a U.N. press release described as a read-out of a meeting earlier between Dr. Ghali, formerly deputy prime minister of Egypt, and Mr. Kidwa.

The meeting took place shortly before Dr. Ghali attended the session of the Security Council which adopted the resolution.

"He calls on the Israeli authorities to reconsider their decision, which is in contravention of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention," the press release said.

The United States, which has used its council veto to shield its Israeli ally in the past, has joined in council resolutions criticising expulsions of Palestinians several times in the past year. The last such resolution was approved last May, but was ignored by Israel.

Security Council resolutions are considered legally binding. However, Israel has rejected all previous Security Council condemnations of its policies.

The council includes five permanent members with veto power — the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia. Its 10 non-permanent members are: Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Hungary, India, Japan, Morocco, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

The expulsion order had developed into the most serious

threat to the peace process that has begun by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last year.

Israel has expelled 67 Palestinians from the occupied territories since the Palestinian uprising against the occupation began four years ago. But the last 12 formed the largest single batch to be ordered expelled in that period.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa warned that Israel's planned expulsion of the 12 from the occupied territories could adversely affect prospects for peace between Arabs and Israelis.

Mr. Musa said Egypt considered the expulsions illegitimate and dangerous.

They would "have their effect on the spirit of the peace process and its future," said Mr. Musa, whose country is the only Arab state at peace with Israel.

Any delay in reaching a Middle East settlement would have "very dangerous effects on the stability of the region," he added.

The Egyptian foreign minister said multilateral talks on issues including water rights and regional security between Arabs and Israel were expected to go ahead as planned in Moscow on Jan. 28.

"We hope that the enthusiasm behind the peace process will not be wane because this could lead to the failure of the peace process and any such failure will have dangerous consequences to stability in the region," Mr. Musa said.

He said he does not expect any progress in the multilateral talks unless Israel agrees to compromise on the issue of exchanging land for peace.

"We cannot expect even one step forward in the multilateral talks if there is no progress on the issue of exchanging land for peace in the bilateral talks."

Arafat leaves after Amman talks

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian people and their national rights," said the statement.

"The resolution also reflects the international community's interest in making the peace process a success. We are in the process of consultations with our Arab brothers who are taking part in the peace process and we will arrive at the proper joint decision that conforms with the interest shown by the international community in ensuring that the peace process will be a success."

Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters that the Palestinian delegation was to leave for Damascus for talks with Syrian and Lebanese officials on a common Arab strategy and position in peace talks with Israel.

Before talks with Sharif Zeid, Mr. Arafat met with members of the Executive Committee and members of the Palestine National Council.

A senior PLO official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Arafat told his aides the Palestinians would travel to

Washington because he considered the U.N. resolution "satisfactory."

Tuesday's Jordanian-Palestinian talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister Thaqan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Suheimat, Foreign Minister Abu Jaber, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine, Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Atef Btoush, chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Majali, PLO Political Department Chief Farouk Kaddoumi, executive committee members Abed Rabbo, Suleiman Najjab, Yasser Amer and Zuhdi Nashashibi as well as Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

His Majesty King Hussein held talks with Mr. Arafat shortly after the PLO leader's arrival here from Cairo Sunday. Mr. Arafat paid a brief visit to Damascus and returned Monday after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

U.N. 'strongly' condemns Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Majali told the AP: "But I have no idea yet about the travel plans."

Faisal Al Hussein, the overall head of the Palestinian delegation, welcomed the Security Council resolution.

"I believe it is a positive step in the right direction," Mr. Hussein said.

"We hope really that there will be a positive response from Israel. Otherwise we are waiting for other resolutions which can force Israel to respect international law."

Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian team which is attending the peace process in a joint delegation with Jordan, said in occupied Jerusalem that the Palestinian negotiators and their advisors would leave the occupied territories for Jordan Wednesday.

Reports from Washington said meanwhile that it was doubtful that the talks could begin Thursday as expected because of the travel logistics (see separate story).

Lebanon also said its delegation would be heading for Washington.

Israel rejects

(Continued from page 1)

expulsions have been for an unlimited period.

"Israel must defend its Jewish and Arab residents, deportations are one of the measures used to deter terrorists," Yoram Aridor, Israel's ambassador to the U.N., said on Israel Radio.

"It is too bad they only condemn the reaction and not at all the acts of murder" of Israelis, said Yochanan Bein, a former Israeli ambassador to the U.N. Deputy Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was disappointed by the American backing for the motion.

"We know there is disagreement with the United States about this issue, but we at least thought there was some understanding that we must take steps to defend ourselves against an increasing wave of murders," Mr. Netanyahu said on the radio.

Some Israeli liberals also criticised the U.N. columnist Yoel Marcus of the Haaretz daily argued there was room to question the army's claims that expulsions are effective against violence. "But in principle, as long as they stab and shoot it is our right to defend ourselves."

Meanwhile, the Palestinians ordered expelled published a statement urging the measure be rescinded.

"We deny all the charges ... and challenge the Israeli authorities to prove their allegations in open court," the statement said.

Israeli army judges have rejected requests to allow the press to attend the appeal hearings of the 12.

"Attorneys for the expulsion candidates asked that the hearings be held 'with doors open' but the judges denied the request," one source said.

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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 6/1/1992	Tokyo Close Date 7/1/1992
Sterling Pound	1.8828	1.8820
Deutsche Mark	1.5170	1.5165
Swiss Franc	1.3435	1.3430
French Franc	5.1745	5.1688
Japanese Yen	123.35	123.00
European Currency Unit	1.3425	1.3445

USD Per JYD
European Opening at 8:00 A.M. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.00	4.06	4.13	4.12
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.56	10.56	10.56
Deutsche Mark	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.43
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.93
French Franc	9.93	9.93	9.81	9.68
Japanese Yen	5.28	5.25	5.00	5.00
European Currency Unit	10.31	10.21	10.12	10.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	USD/100	JD/100	USD/100	JD/100
Gold	368.65	6.70	Silver	3.96

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.673	.675
Sterling Pound	1.2627	1.2690
Deutsche Mark	.4435	.4457
Swiss Franc	.5004	.5029
French Franc	.1300	.1307
Japanese Yen	.5649	.5676
Dutch Guilder	.3940	.3960
Swedish Krona	.1215	.1221
Italian Lira	.0587	.0590
Belgian Franc	.02152	.02163

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7560	1.7650
Lebanese Lira	.0765	.0769
Saudi Riyal	.1791	.1800
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.18235	.18330
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7220	1.7310
UAE Dirham	.18235	.18330
Greek Drachma	.3808	.3820
Cypriot Pound	1.5300	1.5500

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	5/1/1992 Close	6/1/1992 Close
All-Share	131.32	131.25
Banking Sector	108.14	108.09
Insurance Sector	130.56	131.25
Industry Sector	165.63	165.30
Services Sector	145.57	146.62

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8780/90	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1433/36	Canadian dollar
	1.5150/60	Deutsche marks
	1.7055/65	Dutch guilders
	1.3448/55	Swiss francs
	31.20/24	Belgian francs
	5.1750/1800	French francs
	1145/146	Italian lire
	122.85/95	Japanese yen
	5.5250/5300	Swedish crowns
	5.9620/70	Norwegian crowns
	5.8900/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	349.50/350.00	U.S. dollars

U.S. automakers report worst sales in 8 years

DETROIT (AP) — Automakers Monday reported selling 12.3 million cars and light trucks in 1991, an 11.8 per cent decline from the year before and the worst sales year since 1983.

The Honda Accord, made in Ohio and Japan, was America's best-selling car for the third straight year and the Ford F-series truck was the best-selling vehicle overall for the 10th straight year.

Sales of cars and trucks marketed by General Motors (G.M.), Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp. declined 13.2 per cent last year over the year before, far more than the five per cent decline Japanese automakers reported.

The reports came on the eve of President Bush's trade meeting in Japan and underscored tensions between the United States and the Asian nation. About three-fourths of the \$41 billion-plus U.S. trade deficit with Japan is in automobiles and auto parts.

Individually, GM's sales dropped 12.5 per cent, Ford's fell 13.6 per cent and Chrysler's were down 14.7 per cent.

GM's stock rose \$1 to \$33.50 per share, while Ford was up 50 cents to finish at \$30.875 and Chrysler increased 12.5 cents to finish at \$13.625. U.S. automaker stocks have been rising so far this year as investors bet on a return to profitability with an improving economy and Japanese trade concessions.

Among the Japanese automakers, Toyota's sales declined 4.4 per cent, Nissan's slumped 6.3 per cent and Honda's dropped six per cent.

In 1983, as the nation began to

emerge from a recession, auto-makers sold 11.7 million vehicles. The depressed 1991 U.S. sales pace spread to Japan, where new-vehicle sales were off 3.9 per cent, the first year-to-year decline in a decade.

In the United States, the big three held 70 per cent of the market last year, down from 72.1 per cent the year before, and the Japanese held 26.7 per cent, up from 23.5 per cent in 1990.

The leaders of the big three automakers, long critical of Japanese market protectionism and trading practices, are accompanying Mr. Bush on his four-day trip to Japan.

There were reports from Tokyo that Japanese automakers may offer the U.S. delegation some concessions, including greater U.S. access to the Japanese auto market. Michigan Democratic representative Sander Levin, sponsor of tough trade legislation in the House, said Mr. Bush must come home with solid commitments from the Japanese.

Auto executives and analysts have said an increase in sales is at the heart of any recovery in the battered auto industry.

Last year's miserable sales were capped by a 9.1 per cent increase in late-December sales of North American-made cars and light trucks. GM's sales for the Dec. 21-31 period were up 1.2 per cent and Ford's rose 35.4 per cent. Both companies period extremely strong truck sales during the period.

Chrysler's sales were estimated to have declined 5.7 per cent. Chrysler reports sales only on a monthly basis. The Associated Press estimate is based on the

automaker's average monthly market share over the 12 previous months.

Weak new-vehicle sales were the driving force behind what promises to be Detroit's worst financial year in history. Despite aggressive cost-cutting by each of the big three, the companies were expected to report more than \$5 billion in 1991 losses, far worse than in 1980, when they lost about \$4.5 billion.

The financial reports were due at the end of January or early February.

"Our cost-reduction effort was so good and our cash management so much improved that we don't really need much of an upturn (in sales) in order to be profitable," Chrysler President Robert Lutz said Monday.

Analysts and auto executives have forecast an increase in 1992 sales of somewhere around 10 per cent, provided the economy begins a modest recovery in the second half of the year.

Ford North American Sales Vice President Robert Remy said Monday there were some indications that sales will be improving, especially for trucks. "During the first quarter," he said, "we expect our car sales to be up a little from the depressed levels of early 1991, but our truck sales rise more sharply."

Ford has an aggressive incentive program in effect for commercial buyers of the F-series trucks, which pushed up the company's December truck sales by 25.8 per cent. For the year, however, Ford truck sales were down 10.4 per cent from 1990.

Kuwait faces record budget deficit in 91-92

KUWAIT (R) — Dramatic increases in defence spending coupled with sharply lower oil and investment income will push Kuwait's budget deficit to a record \$18.29 billion in fiscal 1991-1992, Kuwaiti economists say.

Figures for the long-delayed budget, which has yet to be announced officially, predict defence spending for the year that started last July 1 would rise five-fold to 2.64 billion dinars (\$9.1 billion), the economists say.

No breakdown of how the money will be spent is available but Kuwait, still harbouring fears of a military threat from Iraq, plans to buy more defence equipment and build up its army.

It will also be bearing the brunt of costs of training exercises with U.S., British and French troops. Kuwait has either signed or plans to sign long-term defence pacts with its three main Western allies in the Gulf war.

This will help push total government spending up 67 per cent from 1990-1991 to 6.089 billion dinars (\$20.99 billion).

Revenues are expected to plummet to 870 million dinars (\$3 billion) — around a third of 1990-1991 levels.

Oil income, the mainstay of Kuwait's economy, will account for about 80 per cent of that amount. In line with normal policy, 10 per cent of total revenues will go to overseas assets which make up a Reserve Fund for Future Generations (RFFG).

Economists and bankers say the budget figures, which have been approved by the government, are being scrutinised by its

elected national assembly.

The budget was held up because of difficulties in predicting expenditure and oil income as Kuwait extinguished hundreds of wellhead fires.

The last fire was put out on Nov. 6 but officials say Kuwait must spend another \$10 billion to \$15 billion over the next two to three years to rebuild its oil infrastructure.

Kuwait is producing around 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) compared with a capacity of 2.2 million before the invasion. It expects to be producing 1.5 million b/d by the end of 1992.

Oil income for fiscal 1992-1993 has been projected at two billion dinars (\$6.9 billion) but economists say the estimate could drop because of lower oil prices caused by a worldwide recession.

With crude revenues climbing slowly and income from overseas assets sharply cut, Kuwait faces more big deficits over the next five years, economists say.

Bankers estimate Kuwait has sold off about half the assets in its \$70 billion RFFG, primarily to pay the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraq out of the emirate last February, ending seven months of occupation.

The rest of the money covered costs generated by financial aid to front-line states hit by crisis, support of Kuwaitis abroad during the occupation and compensation to Kuwaitis who stayed behind.

Annual earnings from these overseas interest-bearing assets had been between \$3 billion and \$4 billion a year prior to the August 1990 invasion, but would

drop to between \$1.4 billion and \$1.7 billion as a result, they said.

These earnings, which were always excluded from the budget, had been enough to wipe out previous published deficits.

Kuwait holds another \$40 billion in a separate General Reserve Fund but this includes \$20 billion of Iraqi debt and equity in big Kuwaiti firms like Kuwait Airways.

Kuwait has put non-recurring costs stemming from the Gulf war and its aftermath in an off-balance sheet totalling 2.983 billion dinars (\$10.28 billion) for fiscal 1991-1992.

This amount, which has already been paid, includes only part of \$22 billion worth of war debts pledged to its Gulf war allies. It also excludes \$1.5 billion which covered the cost of capping burning oilwells.

Economists said the remaining amounts were probably included in Kuwait's actual 1990-1991 expenditure.

They predicted the government budget deficit would shrink to about \$7 billion for each of the next two fiscal years and hover at about \$3.4 billion for the following three.

Interest payments on Kuwait's domestic and foreign debts would continue to burden its treasury for years to come.

Kuwait borrowed \$5.5 billion from international banks for the first time last month.

It also has an estimated \$8.5 billion to \$10 billion worth of domestic debt in outstanding treasury bills and bonds.

Bulgarian premier foresees hard times

SOFIA (R) — Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov told Bulgarians Monday to expect a hard year as the country struggles to clear the rubble of its former communist economy.

In a televised address, Mr. Dimitrov said prices would rise, along with joblessness.

Forecasts for 1992 show an average monthly price increase of 3.5 per cent, due in part to a drop in industrial output of 24 per cent in 1991.

A third of Bulgaria's industry was uncompetitive, he said. Getting rid of it would inevitably lead to mass unemployment.

Mr. Dimitrov said joblessness at the end of the year topped 415,000 or 10 per cent of the workforce. For every available job, there were 41 unemployed people.

Mr. Dimitrov said Bulgaria would rely on privatisation. Its law on foreign investment, expected to be ratified by parliament this month, would catalyse

the economy, he said.

With the break-up of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria had lost one of its major foreign markets.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has suspended its electric power deliveries to Bulgaria after a barter agreement between both governments expired. Bulgaria's top energy official has said.

Energy committee chairman Lyulin Radulov said Ukraine had stopped power deliveries after the agreement expired at the end of 1991.

He said the move could lead to widespread power cuts and electricity rationing.

Ukraine cut electricity supplies to Bulgaria in October but restored them in November after the two sides agreed on a barter agreement under which Bulgaria would exchange raw materials, industrial goods and food for Ukrainian electricity.

Mr. Radulov said Ukraine was now demanding payment in hard

currency.

Bulgaria, struggling to rescue its debt-ridden economy, relied on the former Soviet Union for 10 per cent of its total electricity consumption. Most of the energy came from Ukraine.

Since voting for independence Ukraine has assumed full control of its electric power production and export.

Mr. Radulov said Bulgarian energy officials would leave for

the Ukrainian capital Kiev and for Moscow this week to negotiate a new agreement.

Bulgaria relies on its out-dated nuclear power plant in Kozloduy for 40 per cent of its power needs, but only three of the six Soviet-built reactors at the plant are working.

Sofia is also negotiating with other neighbouring countries, such as Greece, for electricity supplies.

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Bahrain to set up bank for industries

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain plans to open a bank to help finance industrial development, the official Gulf News Agency (GNA) has reported.

Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim told the agency the bank would have an authorised capital of 25 million dinars (\$66 million) and a paid-in capital of 10 million dinars (\$26.5 million).

Bahrain would seek help from the World Bank and the Arab Development Fund to establish the bank which would begin operating early this year.

The setting up of the bank is aimed at boosting development by providing soft loans and credits to individual and small in-

dustrial and trade projects," the minister said. The bank would also finance expansion programmes of existing industries.

Bahrain, the least wealthy Gulf Arab oil producer, is intensifying efforts to diversify its economy.

Last July it approved a law allowing foreign companies to have 100 per cent ownership of manufacturing industries on the island, providing they make Bahrain their regional headquarters. Industry officials say several foreign firms are interested.

Prime Minister Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa said the establishment of the bank was a basic and vital step to support development of light and small industries.

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Amendment to the Invitation of the
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Educational Sciences Building
at University of Jordan
AMMAN — JORDAN

Jordanian contractors in building classified category (1) and foreign contractors and their joint-venture who wish to participate in this bid are invited to contact the Central Tenders Department, University of Jordan to receive a copy of the tender document No. (85/91) about the construction of the building of the Faculty of Educational Sciences, with an approximate area of 17,000 sq. metres on the campus of the University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan. The last date to deposit the offer will be 26.1.1992 and in accordance with the following conditions:

- Any offer having any conditions or reservations contradictory to the tender invitation conditions will not be considered.
- The project is partially financed by the World Bank, and by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- The price of bid copy is JD 250.
- Last date for selling bid copy is 22.1.92.
- Financial offers to be deposited at the Tender Box at the Central Tenders Department not later than 12 o'clock midday of the date fixed above and will be opened the following day at 12:00 noon.
- The foreign contractors and their joint-venture are requested to submit technical and financial proposal. The evaluation of the technical proposal is made on the basis of the criteria and put forth by the Ministry of Public Works & Housing.

Chairman

University of Jordan Tenders Committee
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للدعوة العامة المركزية الدولية

يعلن القائمون الأردنيون في مجال الابنية المصنوقين بالغة الاولى والمقاولين الاجانب واي انتلاف منهم الراغبين بالاشتراك في هذه المناقصة مراجعة دائرة المطاءات المركزية في الجامعة الأردنية لتسلم نسخة من وثائق العطاء رقم ٩١/٨٥ الخاص بإنشاء مبنى كلية العلوم التربوية بمساحة تقريبيه (١٧٠٠٠) في حرم الجامعة الأردنية علما بان اخر موعد لايداع العروض هو يوم ٩٢/١/٢٦ وذلك وفق الشروط التالية:

- ١- ان ينظر بالعروض التي تتضمن اية شروط او تحفظات مخالفة لدعوة العطاء
- ٢- المشروع ممول جزئيا من البنك الدولي وحكومة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
- ٣- ثمن نسخة المناقصة ٢٥٠ دينار غير مستردة
- ٤- اخر موعد لتسلم وثائق المناقصة بتاريخ ١٩٩٢/١/٢٢
- ٥- تودع العروض المالية في صندوق المطاءات المركزية في موعد اقضاء الساعة (١٢) ظهرا في اليوم المحدد اعلاه وستفتح العروض في نفس الموعد في اليوم الذي يليه.
- ٦- على المقاولين الاجانب والانتلافات المتوكة منهم تقديم عروض فنية ومالية ضمن المعايير المعتمدة من قبل وزارة الاشغال العامة.

رئيس لجنة المطاءات المركزية
في الجامعة الأردنية

العنوان: الجامعة الأردنية - عمان
تلكس: ٢١٦٢٩
فكس: ٨٣٢٣١٨

Cinema

Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Kamal Shinnawi, Farouq
Fishawi & Najwa Fuad
in
DR. MANAL DANCES

(Arabic)

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Patrick Swayze and
Demi Moore
in
GHOSTShows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Special shows for children
on Thursday and Friday
at 11:30 a.m.

A BOOK OF HEROES

Cinema

Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

TERMINATOR "2"
JUDGEMENT DAY

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Nabli Al Mashini Theatre

On Thursday Jan. 2 at 8 p.m.
The stars of Haret Abu Awwad family will resume their
performances ofZaman Al Shakiabeh
"Somersault Time"

Tickets available daily at the theatre's entrance.

Georgian troops open fire on pro-Gamsakhurdia rally

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Troops Tuesday opened fire on thousands of people rallying in support of ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Several people were wounded.

The rally began at the train station, with people shouting "Zviady Zviady" and holding pictures of the president and waving Georgian flags. Eventually the crowd grew to about 4,000.

As the demonstrators began to march through Tbilisi, several people were seen waving and cheering from balconies in support of the marchers.

Outside a hotel, a group of armed men, some wearing masks, appeared and formed a line across the street. They fired in the air and then some fired at the crowd. The crowd panicked and started to run wildly.

It was the second time gunmen had opened fire on peaceful pro-Gamsakhurdia demonstrators. On Friday, at least two people were killed and 25 were wounded when men opened fire with machine guns on a crowd at the train station.

The ruling military council that ousted Mr. Gamsakhurdia Monday has banned demonstrations in the capital.

After Tuesday's shooting, one man wounded in the leg was rushed to a nearby house where people started to bandage him. Two women were seen being carried away. The number of casualties could not be determined immediately.

At the parliament building that Mr. Gamsakhurdia fled before dawn Monday, flames were still

visible more than 24 hours later. Air conditioners were exploding from the heat of the flames.

People threw baskets with documents from the eighth floor down to the street. Around the blackened building, people began hauling away the smashed remnants of vehicles.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia was ousted after 16 days of fighting that devastated much of central Tbilisi. A military council formed by opposition leaders is running the country and has promised to try to form a civilian coalition government.

Acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua said the situation in Georgia was very poor, and there was a severe shortage of money. Georgia still uses the ruble as its currency.

Armed bandits were roaming around the capital Tbilisi, and there were several shooting incidents between bandits and National Guardsmen loyal to the opposition.

Supporters of Mr. Gamsakhurdia have dismantled railway tracks, disrupting train connections to western Georgia.

Armenia has stressed that it was offering only temporary sanctuary, not political asylum, to Mr. Gamsakhurdia, the TASS News Agency said.

Russian television said a delegation of Georgian lawmakers was due in Armenia to discuss what to do about Mr. Gamsakhurdia with Armenian officials.

On Monday, Mr. Gamsakhurdia fled the parliament building where he had been besieged by rebel members of the Georgian

National Guard. Black smoke hung over Tbilisi as the parliament building and nearby structures continued to burn.

"Look what they've done to our city," said one man as he walked along Rustaveli Prospect, once the city's elegant main street, now littered with broken glass, smashed cars, burnt-out trucks and broken tree limbs.

Before dawn Monday, Mr. Gamsakhurdia and his supporters shot their way out of their stronghold and sped away unhindered by opposition fighters. His motorcade drove to neighbouring Azerbaijan, but he later wound up in Idjevan, an Armenian border community. TASS said.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a former dissident poet overwhelmingly elected in a popular election last May, was accused by the opposition of acting like a dictator. He had jailed many critics, closed opposition newspapers and provoked the clash that toppled him by demanding that his opponents disarm.

The men who overthrew the 52-year-old president announced they would try to form a civilian coalition government and hoped to call elections as early as April. They also demanded Mr. Gamsakhurdia's extradition for a possible trial, even though they let him go.

"We said we were leaving them an exit on purpose, so that they could leave without bloodshed," said Dzhaba Ioseliani, a playwright and one of the leaders of the new ruling military council.

The fighting left at least 73 people dead and 400 wounded. Mr. Ioseliani dismissed fears by

S. Korea, U.S. cancel joint exercises; N. Korea to sign nuclear accord

SEOUL (AP) — The Defence Ministry said Tuesday the 1992 annual joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises will be cancelled to encourage Communist North Korea to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement.

Government-controlled MBC Television reported Tuesday that North Korea has formally informed the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) it will sign the safeguards agreement by the end of January.

The announcement comes one day after President George Bush said he and President Roh Tae-woo had agreed to cancel the exercises, called Team Spirit, if North Korea fulfilled its pledge for a nuclear-free Korea.

Yoon Chang-ro, spokesman of the South Korea Defence Ministry, said the cancellation of this year's exercises are in line with U.S. and South Korea efforts to ease tensions on the peninsula.

"The 1992 Team Spirit exercises will not be held, and the decision was endorsed by the United States," Mr. Yoon said in a brief statement.

Mr. Yoon said the decision only concerned this year's exercises, which were to have begun

in late January and ended in mid-April. No decision has been made on future exercises, he said.

MBC Television reported Tuesday that North Korea's Ambassador to Vienna, Chun In Chan, told IAEA Director-General Hanx Blix last week that his government was prepared to sign the safeguards agreement.

"Mr. Blix welcomed the North Korean decision and suggested that the signing take place either on Jan. 29 or 30," MBC reported in a Vienna-dated report.

This North Korean ambassador called a news conference for Tuesday apparently to announce the plan, the television reported.

North Korea, one of the world's few hardline Communist countries, has been under international pressure to sign a safeguards agreement with IAEA and open its nuclear facilities to outside inspections.

International experts believe North Korea is a few years away from being able to manufacture a crude atomic bomb. North Korea has denied the claim, arguing that its nuclear programme is for peaceful use only.

A breakthrough in the issue came on Dec. 31 when rivals



Life Is Sweet chosen best film of 1991

NEW YORK (AP) — The British comedy *Life Is Sweet* was chosen best picture of 1991 by film critics from 35 national publications. The movie, about a dysfunctional family, also won awards from the National Society of Film Critics for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress. Alison Steadman won best actress for her portrayal as the strong-willed mother. Jane Horrocks won for her depiction of the tragicomic bulimic daughter.

The 26th annual awards announced Sunday following the society's annual meeting at the Algonquin Hotel. It is the first Best Picture Award to go to the Mike Leigh film. The New York Film Critics Circle and National Board of Review both chose *Silence of the Lambs* as 1991's best film.

Guards foil Riviera prison escape

NICE, France (R) — Prisoners blasted their way out of Nice jail with dynamite but were immediately recaptured, prison officials said. The officials did not say how many prisoners were involved. Before exploding the dynamite in the courtyard of the French Riviera jail the prisoners took a guard hostage. The guard was released unhurt. The attempted escape was the latest in a series of incidents at the jail since the start of last year which included the brief seizure of the prison director as a hostage and the arrest of five guards accused of smuggling drugs to inmates.

Goldberg faces 'hostile' reception in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A black radical group has threatened a "hostile reception" in South Africa for American actress Whoopi Goldberg over her decision to make a film in the country, a newspaper has reported. The Azanian Youth Organisation (AZYO), which says genuine political reform has not started, previously urged American singer Paul Simon to scrap a tour of South Africa scheduled to start Saturday. The promoters say it will go ahead.

"We view Whoopi Goldberg in the same light as Paul Simon," the Sunday Tribune newspaper quoted the youth movement's publicity secretary, George Mgwanya, as saying. "They will be given a hostile reception," he added. AZYO, he said, would ask Goldberg to leave the country. Goldberg arrived last Friday to star in a local film production of the musical *Sarafina*, set in the sprawling township Soweto. She could not be reached for comment on the stand adopted by AZYO which, in remarks published Saturday, threatened violence if needed to stop Simon from performing.

Report links passive smoking to cot deaths

LONDON (R) — Cot deaths and meningitis are among more than 50 children's ailments and disorders linked with passive smoking, according to a British report. The list emerged from a review of 143 scientific studies spanning more than 20 years into how children were affected by having parents who smoked. Many of the conditions, such as sore throats and eyes, sneezing and coughs, were minor. But others included cot deaths, meningitis, cystic fibrosis, pneumonia, congenital heart disease and vulnerability to cancer in later life. The survey was carried out by Dr. Anne Charlton, director of the Cancer Research Campaign's Education and Child Studies Research Group at Manchester University, and was published by the Association for Nonsmokers' Rights. Dr. Charlton said extensive studies into the effects of passive smoking on children had been made only in the past five years. One important discovery was the apparent link with cot deaths. "The evidence now is fairly conclusive. There are a lot of factors involved with cot deaths, but passive smoking does seem to increase the risk," she said. She also said a study in Norway showed a correlation between children with meningitis and those subjected to passive smoking before the age of 12. "As time goes on, increasingly more and more evidence is coming to the fore to show that parental smoking in the household really does affect children's health," she said.

NATO starts shipping aid to former Soviet Union

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO said Tuesday it had arranged for a relief "squadron" of military aircraft to fly aid to the former Soviet Union, the first time the Western alliance has taken on a humanitarian mission.

NATO foreign ministers, worried that the economic crisis afflicting their former enemy could lead to serious unrest this winter, agreed last month that the alliance should help coordinate the airlift of Western food and medical aid.

A North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) spokesman said one German and one Canadian military aircraft would leave Cologne Airport Tuesday for Moscow carrying 54 tonnes of milk powder donated by the European Community (EC).

A second Canadian military plane would leave for Moscow Wednesday, carrying another 27 tonnes of milk powder.

The aircraft are part of a relief unit put together by the alliance to fly aid to Moscow in the coming weeks, but the spokesman could give no further details on other aircraft or other planned flights.

NATO has also said it would be willing to provide troops to help with the distribution of the aid. But alliance sources said there were no immediate plans to send soldiers.

The 16-nation alliance, set up 1949 to counter the Soviet military threat, has never been involved in humanitarian missions until now, although it has a vast military support network that can be used to coordinate aid.

Meanwhile Russians flocked to churches to celebrate Orthodox Christmas Tuesday but the mood on the streets was far from festive and Moscow Radio reported protests in some parts of the country against price rises.

Television broadcast live a late-

Yugoslav truce holds; Serbs resist U.N. plan

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Yugoslav federal forces and Croatian independence fighters held to a ceasefire for the fifth day Tuesday, but Serb hardliners maintained their resistance to the terms of a planned U.N. peacekeeping operation.

In Serbia and in Serb communities elsewhere in Yugoslavia, people marked Orthodox Christmas Day in solemn church services under the pall of the fratricidal war with the Roman Catholic Croats.

In a Christmas message to the Vatican, Patriarch Pavle said both sides had to accept guilt for the conflict which he said had forced "the sons of many people to behave in an unchristian and inhuman way."

And he urged Serbs and Croats to separate amicably if they could not live together.

"Even if we can not live together like brothers at least let us separate like human beings and live in peace like Christian neighbours," he said.

At least 6,000 people have been killed since Croatia declared independence from the Yugoslav Federation last June, sparking armed resistance by its Serbs and military action by the Serb-offered federal army.

Zagreb Radio said most of Croatia's battlefronts were quiet over Monday night and in the early morning.

It said Serbian forces fired four mortars into the centre of the eastern Croatian capital Osijek at around midnight in the only major breach of the truce but no one was hurt.

It said later that another mortar was fired from the Serb stronghold of Stara Tinja on the Agricultural Faculty of Osijek.

Several shells landed in Komarevo village near Sisak, south east of Zagreb, while the village of Gorice near Nova Gradiska came under machine-gun fire of half an hour, it said.

The Jan. 3 ceasefire between the army and Croatia's National Guard, arranged by U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance, has proved more successful than its 14 predecessors — each of which collapsed

Canadian MPs roughed up in China

HONG KONG (R) — Three Canadian members of parliament expelled from China Tuesday after visiting relatives of jailed dissidents accused Chinese police of "kidnapping" and manhandling them.

"We were kidnapped on a bus and held against our will," said Svend Robinson, leaders of the delegation visiting China to study its human rights record.

"We were manhandled by a large number of police officers," Speaking to reporters after their arrival in Hong Kong, delegation member Beryl Gaffney, 61, said fellow parliamentarian Geoff Scott had suffered the roughest treatment during an incident at the Peking Visa Office.

"Geoff was literally bodily thrown onto the bus (to the airport) she said, her voice breaking with emotion.

The three were detained Tuesday morning and expelled for "engaging in activities incompatible with their status in China," a Chinese Foreign Ministry official said.

Mr. Robinson said the delegation had planned to visit Peking's Number Two jail where dissident

democracy protesters killed by Chinese troops during the 1989 crackdown, after Chinese authorities told them the square was off limits.

In Peking a spokesman for the Canadian embassy said earlier: "We will be protesting this at the highest levels. As far as we know, they (the parliamentarians) have not done anything illegal and are not contemplating doing anything illegal."

The parliamentary delegation, with one member from each of Canada's main political parties, had earlier angered China by meeting the families of dissidents.

Chinese police and security agents dogged their movements and conspicuously taped some of the conversations, a witness said.

China had arranged an official programme for the three, including meetings with government officials and a visit to Peking's Number One Prison.

The three turned down the visit because Number One is known as a model prison, shown to many foreign visitors. They insisted on going to Number Two Prison, but were refused.

2nd massive bomb explodes in Belfast

BELFAST (AP) — A massive bomb shattered glass and damaged shops Monday, 18 hours after an even larger explosion rocked the city's commercial heart and brought calls for tighter security.

No one was seriously injured in either explosion. No one claimed responsibility, but the second blast came 33 minutes after a telephone warning in the name of the Irish Republican Army

(IRA), police said.

The British province's government promised to rebuild.

"Every building will be refurbished, every tile will be replaced, every window will be refitted. However long the bombs go on in Belfast ... the government will rebuild Belfast better than it has been before," said Richard Needham, the province's economic development minister. But pro-British politicians de-

Mrs. Marcos announces presidential bid

MANILA (AP) — Flamboyant former first lady Imelda Marcos said Tuesday she will seek the presidency to succeed Corason Aquino, who ousted her husband and drove her family into exile six years ago.

The widow of former President Ferdinand Marcos made the announcement on the steps of a courthouse after pleading innocent to six criminal charges stemming from her late husband's 20-year rule.

Mrs. Marcos, whose 1,200 pairs of shoes symbolised the Marcos' extravagant lifestyle that prosecutors say was paid for with embezzled money, said she was running because Mrs. Aquino had ignored the suffering of the poor.

A presidential spokesman said Mrs. Aquino would stick by her decision not to seek a second term in the May 11 election despite

Mrs. Marcos' announcement.

Mrs. Marcos said she would seek the nomination of the opposition Nacionalista Party at its convention later this month. Its other presidential hopefuls include Vice President Salvador Laurel and Mrs. Aquino's estranged cousin, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

"After months of direct consultations with our poor and oppressed citizens, I have decided to run for office to seek the presidency," she said.

After the announcement, Mrs. Marcos travelled to Lucena City, 110 kilometres south east of Manila, for her first campaign rally.

Mrs. Aquino's spokesman, Horacio Paredes, said the president would have no statements on Mrs. Marcos' bid for the presidency.

But, he added, "I do not believe that the Filipino nation

U.S. economy dominates New Hampshire campaign

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP) — Democratic presidential contender Bill Clinton is in line for help from a major labour union, according to labour and party officials. The development not only would give Mr. Clinton a boost, it would hurt one of his major rivals.

Democratic Party and labour sources, speaking Monday night on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Clinton was likely to get organisational help from the nation's second-largest union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The AFL-CIO forbids its member unions to endorse independently of the federation. The sources said AFSCME was likely to promise Mr. Clinton help in assembling his slate of delegates, a move that would send a clear signal to state chapters which are free to endorse.

Two sources said Mr. Clinton was the favourite of AFSCME President Gerald McEntee, but

Khrushchev saw missile crisis as Soviet victory, letters show

WASHINGTON (AP) — Contrary to the popular view of the time, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev considered the outcome of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis a significant Soviet victory because he elicited a pledge from President Kennedy not to invade Cuba.

Mr. Khrushchev's thoughts were outlined in an extraordinary exchange of post-crisis letters with Mr. Kennedy that the State Department made public Monday after keeping them secret for more than 29 years.

The letters highlight the hopes, fears and deep mistrust of the two leaders as they sought to come to grips with the aftermath of the most dangerous nuclear crisis the world has confronted.

The disclosure of the letters ended a four-year campaign for

their release by the National Security Archives, a private foreign policy research group based in Washington. All told, 15 letters between Oct. 30 and Dec. 19, 1962, were released.

Two days after the crisis ended, Mr. Khrushchev wrote Mr. Kennedy, "We received your assurance that you would not invade Cuba and would not permit others to do it and on this condition we withdrew the weapons which you called offensive."

"As a result, there has been practically achieved the purpose which had been intended to be achieved through the shipments of means of defence."

At the time, the outcome of the crisis was widely viewed as an American triumph because Mr. Kennedy had been able to induce Khrushchev to dismantle the mis-

siles the Soviets had secretly sent to the island but which were detected by U.S. reconnaissance planes.

There is little new information contained in the letters, but they underscored once again the difficulties the two sides experienced in working out the final details of the tentative agreement that defused the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

The exchanges indicated the concern of the two leaders that the agreement could have fallen apart, reviving the crisis all over again.

For his part, Mr. Kennedy expressed grave concern about the opposition of President Fidel Castro to outside verification that the missiles had indeed been withdrawn and to initial refusal to

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or note.